

STAR WARS GALAXY COLLECTOR

MAKING OF A LEGEND

THE ARTISTRY BEHIND
STAR WARS BUSTS

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STAR WARS GALAXY COLLECTOR

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"A Delicate Balance"

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► In the publishing business, as in the game of life... you can please *some* of the people *some* of the time, and you can please *all* of the people *some* of the time, but you can't please *all* of the people *all* of the time.

We've heard plenty of response to our "refocused" *STAR WARS GALAXY COLLECTOR* since we revamped its predecessor, *STAR WARS GALAXY MAGAZINE*. Most of those who wrote in were surprised to see the "switch," though opinions were about divided on whether dedicating the majority of the coverage to *STAR WARS* collectibles is a wise decision. While we might rack some of that up to general resistance to any type of change, we've also taken the constructive criticism to heart. Bottom line? We're going to keep working hard to make this an always-better magazine, though the collectibles galaxy will remain our domain.

I know the most important thing I've learned is that there is as much interest in vintage collectibles as there is in the new stuff. Although most every *STAR WARS* collector wants to know what's coming from Kenner, Galoob and other longtime Lucasfilm licensees, there's still plenty to be learned about older items, too. That might elicit a "duh!" from some readers, but from

the publishing standpoint it's truly a tough balance to maintain in a fan arena as disparate as the one *STAR WARS* occupies. For example, we know there's a tremendous clamor for the latest action figures, but there's still lots to be said about vintage ones—and more than just what they're worth. Readers want to know how they were made, how other fans keep them and even how parts can be mixed and matched to create custom figures.

Naturally, I'm concerned when a reader says he or she is thinking about dropping *SWG*C from his or her required reading list. To them, and to the rest of our readers, I'm making the same request: Give us a bit more time to establish the type of balance in our coverage that fans seem to want. And please continue sending us your suggestions, ideas, criticisms and other comments about how to make *SWG*C the essential guide to *STAR WARS* collectibles.

* * *

ATTENTION ALL STAR WARS FANS: As we move ever closer to the release in May 1999 of *STAR WARS*: Episode I, we're developing a special one-shot magazine celebrating the brightest highlights of the classic trilogy: *The Best of STAR WARS*. What's the best scene from the first three movies, the best starship, the best alien, the best costume, the best comic book, the best action figure? We're putting our lists together, but this can't work without your expert input. Write us and tell us your thoughts on all the "bests" of *STAR WARS*; send letters to Best Of, *STAR WARS GALAXY COLLECTOR*, One Whitehall St., New York, NY 10004. And for those in the on-line generation, write to our e-mail address—swgmtopps@aol.com—and ask for the Official Best-Of Ballot that we're putting together. We'll also make it available in the various *STAR WARS* Newsgroups and as many fan clubs as we can. Look for *The Best of STAR WARS* on newsstands this fall.

See you in the next issue.

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The Hamilton Collection
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Even a Jedi Master has to practice his lines. Last summer, during production of *STAR WARS*: Episode I at Leavesden Studios near London, Frank Oz was on the scene. The accomplished director of films such as *In and Out*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *What About Bob?* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, Oz briefly stepped back to the world of *STAR WARS* to offer his inimitable performance as the Jedi sage Yoda.

Assisting Oz in his performance were three other master puppeteers: Kathy Smee, Don Austen and David Greenaway. Modern technology could probably permit a single person to perform the entire character, but this traditional group performance allows special attention to be devoted to each individual aspect of the character.



THE COMPOSITE IDENTITY OF A JEDI MASTER

Greenaway compares their rehearsals to the practice of an ensemble preparing, like a quartet. "When it works," Greenaway says, "it's like good jazz—improvisation gives it life. We learn to work together, and trust each other, learn each other's rhythms." He smiles. "There's a great amount of feeling the Force."

In performance, Greenaway becomes the windows to the soul of a Jedi Master: He is the eyes of Yoda. Complex and reflective, Greenaway brings great subtlety to his work, and must be in perfect sync with Oz for the performance to work. "Ideally with the eyes I have to be a split second ahead

BACK AT THE RANCH

of Frank, or exactly with him," Greenaway says. Having been the eyes of Yoda for *Return of the Jedi*, he was specifically called in by Oz for the same role in Episode I.

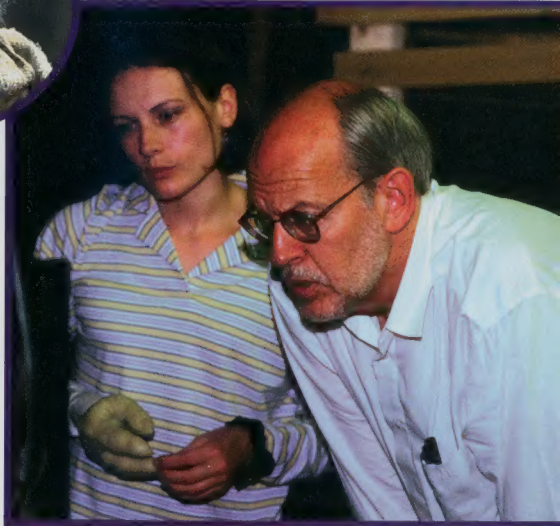
Soft-spoken Kathy Smee is Yoda's right arm, stationed alongside Oz, while the other two performers work nearby via radio controls. Of the puppeteers' performances, she notes that "you can't be trying to do your own thing. Frank performs the character. He is the character. We just try to give him freedom, to work with his performance, to flow with it. Because no mat-

ter what we rehearse, Frank will always do something a little more, a little different for the real take."

Don Austen laughs about the pitfalls of impressing the audience when one doesn't mean to. "You make a big wrong move with Yoda's ears in the middle of Frank's performance, and on a 60-foot-high movie screen it's going to throw people back in their chairs like an IMAX film!" Turning serious, but still smiling, Austen considers the tightrope they walk. "You want to do more than simple basic puppeteering with these things—more than just, 'Ears up, he's happy! Ears down, he's morose.' You want to lend some dimension with the work, but not overdo it."

Of the supporting performers for Yoda, George Lucas comments on the set, "What goes on back there is extremely important."

The group turns intense and focused as they become Yoda together, working through run after run, getting the timing of a single blink down to perfection within the performance. It seems no surprise that Oz has chosen these people as his ensemble. "I look for sensitivity, awareness," says Oz, "for a sensibility that will work



**KATHY SMEE AND
FRANK OZ REVIEW
A PERFORMANCE
ON A VIDEO
MONITOR DURING
PRODUCTION OF
STAR WARS:
EPISODE I. SMEE
IS YODA'S RIGHT
ARM.**

for the character. And also the ability to work well with the monitors."

During performances and rehearsals, the Yoda team watches TV monitors to see how their work looks in action. What's it like seeing and being Yoda again? "It's nice seeing old friends again," Oz says of his co-performers, "and Yoda is like an old friend, too. But it's still a challenge."

It's a challenge that Oz and his ensemble are clearly ready to meet. "David's right, it is like music," Oz reflects. "When everything works, we get to a place where things just happen." And there the Jedi Master comes alive once more. 🙏

(Excerpted from starwars.com, written by David West Reynolds.)

XENA

WARRIOR PRINCESS



AROUND THE GALAXY

EDITED BY DAVID PIPGRAS
AND MARTIN THURN

THE 1998 TOY FAIR is long over and done with, but its ramifications will be felt throughout the *STAR WARS* community for years to come. As at Toy Fairs past, Hasbro/Kenner and Galoob Toys made big splashes, though there were plenty of other notable presentations. Here are some highlights:

Hasbro's store exclusives and promotional items top the list of things for avid collectors to look for in 1998. They'll be all over the special Wal-Mart exclusive two-packs featuring the Max Rebo Band—Barquin D'an and Droopy McCool, Doda Bodonawieedo and Max Rebo, and Joh Yowza and Sy Snootles. Toys R Us will be the only retailer to offer "Millennium Minted Coins with Figures," featuring a coin similar to the 1985 editions (but with a unique back) and *STAR WARS* figures. The assortment will include a snowtrooper, Beshin Han Solo, C-3PO, Chewbacca, Endor poncho Luke, Endor poncho Leia and Emperor Palpatine.

Meanwhile, on the general retail front, Kenner will add several new figures to its new six-inch Epic Force line, including a stormtrooper, Chewie from the Death Star detention block scene, Han Solo wearing a stormtrooper belt, Princess Leia in her Cloud City jumpsuit (the Hoth outfit sans vest) and Obi-Wan Kenobi.

HASBRO/KENNER

A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH



Keys to Happiness

ONE OF THE COOLEST *STAR WARS* items shown at this year's Toy Fair was Hasbro Interactive's *Millennium Falcon* playset for Windows 95. A CD-ROM and unique keyboard-mounted playset, with a unique Han Solo action figure, allow you to pilot the *Falcon* through a series of sound-enhanced, interactive adventures. Gain guidance and wisdom from Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi, battle TIE fighters and search for the exhaust post on the dreaded Death Star.

Trivial Matter



ADVENTUROUS COMBINATION

THE ALL-NEW *STAR WARS* Intergalactic Battle Game from Parker Brothers uniquely combines the strategy of a board game with the popularity of *STAR WARS* action figures, giving kids a whole new way to play with both. Players recreate scenes from the classic trilogy, with their favorite *STAR WARS* action figures and accessories, by using special figure stands that replace traditional game pieces. The game comes with two exclusive action figures, available only with this game: trash compactor Luke Skywalker (in stormtrooper disguise, with slicked back hair and dirty uniform) and Darth Vader with removable helmet dome (just the top portion comes off).



DO YOU KNOW another name for a T-65? Is the Jedi Master's Quizbook too easy? Can you pass the New Republic Diplomatic Corps Entrance Exam without even trying? If so, then Hasbro's Parker Brothers unit has just the thing for you: Trivial Pursuit *STAR WARS* Classic Trilogy Edition. This exciting expansion to the popular board game features 2,400 questions and photos based on the original *STAR WARS* trilogy. Players' knowledge is tested in six categories: Characters, Weapons & Vehicles, History, Geography, Droids, Creatures and Aliens, and Wild Card (potpourri). An electronic R2-D2 "randomizer" determines how many spaces each player moves, and players store their game pieces (pie wedges) in the bottom of their pewter *STAR WARS* character token. Each game also includes a special Prequel Pack, featuring questions that will give players a "sneak peek" at Episode I.

GALAXY GIVEAWAY!

Parker Brothers is giving away two Trivial Pursuit-*STAR WARS* Classic Trilogy Edition sets.

To enter the random drawing, send your name, age and address in a letter or on a postcard to Parker Brothers Giveaway, *Star Wars Galaxy Collector* #2, One Whitehall St., New York, NY 10004. Entries must be received by September 30, 1998. Winners will be notified by mail.

BAGGING TIGER

HASBRO ROARED into Toy Fair week by announcing its acquisition of Tiger Electronics. That only bolstered Tiger's own announcement of several electrifying new *STAR WARS* gizmos, in particular a Boba Fett Room Alarm, featuring a laser target game. Tiger also unleashed its Galactic Laser Pinball, a tabletop game where players control either an X-wing or Vader's TIE fighter—both equipped with high-energy lights, electronic scoring and sounds straight from the films.



APPLAUSE Hip, Hip, Hooray!

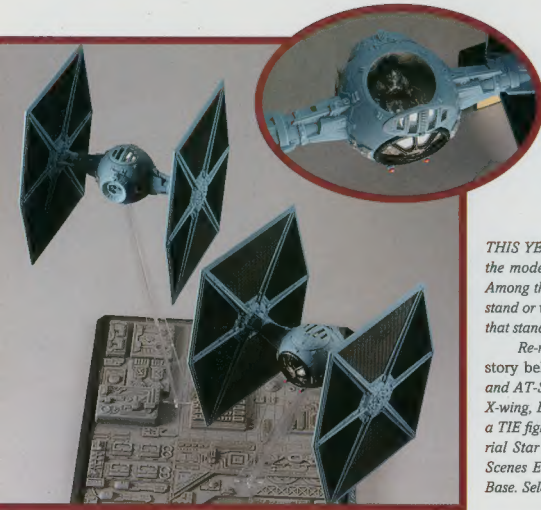
LET'S HAVE A BIG HAND for Applause for adding lots of new products to their *Star Wars* Classic Collectors Series this year. Among the entries are figures of Luke in blast shield, Leia as Jabba's prisoner (in a pose inspired by the Hildebrandts' painting of Guri for the *Shadows of the Empire* card set), C-3PO and a second edition of Obi-Wan Kenobi. Additions to Applause's line of 3" PVC figurines include Admiral Ackbar, a Tusken Raider, Bossk and a second version of Obi-Wan. Collectors should also be attracted to five die-cut magnets: an A9-A9, a snowspeeder, an X-wing fighter, a TIE fighter and the Millennium Falcon.



GALAXY GIVEAWAY!

Applause is giving away three of its new Leia as Jabba's prisoner vinyl dolls.

To enter the random drawing, send your name, age and address in a letter or on a postcard to Applause Giveaway, *Star Wars Galaxy Collector* #2, One Whitehall St., New York, NY 10004. Entries must be received by September 30, 1998. Winners will be notified by mail.



AMT/ERTL

Models of Modern Major Generals

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY for AMT/Ertl, and to celebrate, the model maker is introducing several new STAR WARS vehicle and vessel kits. Among the new ones for '98 are the Death Star, which can be displayed either on a stand or wall hook; Cantina Action Scene with an 11" x 17" base and a vinyl rancor that stands 12" tall.

Re-released in new packaging—graced with stunning artwork by Ed Cox (see story below)—are snap-together "SnapKits" of a TIE Interceptor, X-wing fighter and AT-ST. Also look for such continuing pieces as "Flight Display" versions of the X-wing, Darth Vader's TIE fighter and a speeder bike, as well as regular versions of a TIE fighter, X-wing fighter, Shuttle Tydirium, Millennium Falcon, Slave 1, Imperial Star Destroyer and Vader's TIE. Rounding out the line are "Classic Action Scenes Encounters" with Yoda, Jabba's throne room, Battle of Hoth and Rebel Base. Selected kits contain non-toxic glue, paint and paint brush.

Box By Cox

GROWING UP, ED COX WAS ALWAYS intrigued with the work of artists, such as Ralph McQuarrie, Greg and Tim Hildebrandt, and Drew Struzan, who had gained fame as STAR WARS illustrators. Lo and behold, he's grown up now and an accomplished painter himself of, among other things, boxes packaging Ertl's STAR WARS model kits. He talks with Dave Piggas about his great fortune:

SWGC: How did you get the Ertl job?

EC: I was working on a *Star Trek* painting for my portfolio, and went to the hobby store to buy a model. There I saw Ertl's packages and immediately envisioned my art on their boxes. So, I sent the company one of my portfolios. As it turned out, they needed somebody right then, and immediately sent me two STAR WARS jobs.

My first projects were "Yoda's house" and "Jabba's throne room." Lucasfilm had requested that Ertl update the look of their line, so I was in the right place at the right time. They liked my samples and gave me those two jobs, and then assigned me "Shuttle Tydirium," one of my favorites.

SWGC: What is involved with creating an illustration for a STAR WARS model box?

EC: The first requirement is that I paint what is contained in the box. I have to be careful not to mislead or confuse people as to what is inside. The company will send me a model to use as reference. From there, I set the model up on a swivel base and photograph it from every angle, and then transfer the images to my computer, where I can make quick electronic sketches over the images and save each picture. Once I have the image the way I like it, I transfer it to the illustration board and hand paint it in.

SWGC: What non-STAR WARS work have you done?

EC: For Ertl, I have done a few *Star Trek* paintings, as well as for kits based on 1950s "B" sci-fi movies. I had a blast doing those—Ertl gave me free reign to do whatever I wanted. One was a giant tarantula destroying a power station; another was a four-story praying mantis destroying a train station. The last was a scorpion with a tail that reaches up six stories. I also did some hot rod illustrations.

SWGC: How can fans view your art?

EC: I maintain a Web site, www.edcox.com, and attend sci-fi conventions. I am also easy to reach at my studio [1147 #5 South Salisbury Blvd., Salisbury, MD 21801]. My e-mail address is edcox@edcox.com. If you can't find me, then you just ain't lookin'!





GALOOB TOYS THE DIE IS CAST

COLLECTORS SHOULD be on the lookout for new die-cast metal vehicles from Galoob Toys. Additions to the existing fleet are the Death Star, an A-wing starfighter, a snowspeeder, a TIE bomber, Luke's landspeeder, *Slave I* and a Super Star Destroyer. Joining the playset line are Cloud City (with a twin-pod cloud car) and Rebel Transport (with an X-wing), as well as four Transforming Action Playset combinations of Yoda/Dagobah, Jabba the Hutt/Mos Eisley Spaceport, *Slave I*/Tatooine and Star Destroyer/Space Fortress.

Galoob is also expanding its Action Fleet to include an Imperial landing craft, a Rebel Blockade Runner, Jabba's sail barge, a TIE defender (from the Dark Forces computer game) and an E-wing starfighter (from *The Black Fleet Crisis*, a *STAR WARS* novel series by Michael P. Kube-McDowell).

RIP Archie Goodwin (1937-1998)

Orman Tagge... Tanith Shire... Simon Greysshade... Valance.... Archie Goodwin's contributions to *STAR WARS* go on and on. That his characters would outlast him was assured. That his own passing would be untimely, no one could have imagined.

Editor/writer Archie Goodwin passed away on March 1 at age 60. His relationship with *STAR WARS* began with Issue #11 of *Marvel's STAR WARS* comic books series, and he later replaced Russ Manning as writer of the newspaper strips, with longtime friend Al Williamson providing artwork. Goodwin's work has been discovered by new fans since *Dark Horse* reprinted the strips, and his *Marvel* tales are to be reprinted, too.

Throughout his career, at *Epic*, *Marvel* and *DC*, Goodwin enjoyed the respect and fondness of his colleagues. Jo Duffy dubbed him "a wonderful man," who "was as good a writer at the end as he was at any other time." Terry Beatty, a *DC* mate, stated, "He was a great writer, a terrific editor, a true gentleman and a friend. We'll all miss you, Archie." — by Rich Handley



DON POST STUDIOS Big Boba

DON POST STUDIOS is already famous for their high-quality *STAR WARS* masks, as well as their deluxe helmets and life-size stormtrooper. Now added to the helmet line will be TIE and X-wing fighter pilots and a scout trooper, as well as larger size "Classic Action Helmets" of Darth Vader, a stormtrooper and a TIE fighter pilot.

From their Lucasfilm Archive Collection, look for limited, individually numbered versions of a TIE fighter pilot (limited to 500), stormtrooper (1,000), scout trooper (500) and X-wing pilot (750). Each replica helmet is cast from original props in sturdy Fiberglas and lined for comfort.

Joining the life-size replica series is a highly detailed version of the notorious bounty hunter Boba Fett (right). Standing just over six feet tall, this is the ultimate Fett, complete with Mandalorian battle armor, gray jumpsuit, wrist gauntlets, chest plate (with insignia), spiked boots, torn cape, braided Wookiee scalps, blaster rifle and ultra-cool rocket backpack. One of Post's finest pieces ever, it's destined to be a prized collector's item.



THE Card Collector

CATCH THEM, IF YOU CAN: Promo Cards



ONCE YOU VENTURE past the hype surrounding the various *Star Wars* trading card sets, another world of card collecting opens up and takes you on a voyage to a galaxy far, far away—a galaxy that too few collectors are familiar with.

Over the last few years, a lot of attention has been paid to *Star Wars* products, and with last year's release of the *Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition* and the filming of the first of the prequels, the push was even bigger. Unfortunately, relatively little has been mentioned about *Star Wars* trading cards, save for the occasional spotlight on the newest product or childhood memories of collecting—hardly useful information for the avid collector.

With that paucity in mind, we've created this regular "Around the Galaxy" feature, solely dedicated to *Star Wars* cards. In each issue, the goal will be to share not only basic information for new and existing collectors, but also to introduce you to some of the unique aspects that make collecting cards so much fun. You're encouraged to write in if there are items you'd like to see covered, suggestions to make this column better or to ask specific questions about card collecting. Send mail to the magazine, or feel free to e-mail me at dpip@teleport.com.

With that out of the way, let's jump right into our first topic: Promo Cards.

One of the most interesting areas of *Star Wars* card collecting is the different promotional cards that have been released for sets produced since 1993. Unlike chase cards, which are randomly inserted into card packs, promos must be hunted down and collected from various sources, including magazines, conventions and product inserts, such as action figures or toys. For the most part,

promo cards are more commonly available, but harder to complete as sets, due to how they are distributed.

To understand what a promo card is, think of a movie trailer. You're given brief glimpses, with the intention of getting you to want to see the film when it is released. Such is the aim of card companies with promos: Sample cards will hopefully get you to want to collect the set when it is available.

These cards should not be confused with "premiums," which are typically offered with the purchase of specific products, such

as soda or snack foods, and are unique

sets themselves. A promo

card directly ties into an existing

set—like those that previewed Topps'

Star Wars Galaxy series and the Widevision

sets—while a premium is a unique set all its own.

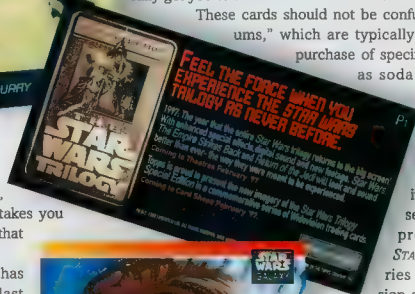
Usually, promo cards are exactly the same or similar to those in the set they're promoting, the main difference being that the back of promos generally advertise the set, its number of cards and expected release dates. Sometimes, a promo card will have the same number, such as "P2," "SWGMI" or "2 of 3," will indicate that other promos are available.

Occasionally, a promo card will vary slightly from the corresponding card in the set. This may be the result of the publisher

or license holder—Lucasfilm, in this case—making a change to the final card. Sometimes a promo card is printed, then does not appear in the regular set at all, such as the famous P3 Yoda promo from the *Galaxy 2* series. Those are often interesting collector items.

There are many definitions as to what constitutes a "complete" set. Some say it's the basic cards; others must have every chase card, promo card, wrapper, redemption card, unopened pack, box and whatever else they can get their hands on.

A listing of Topps *Star Wars* trading cards, including promo cards, was included in Issue #10 of *Star Wars Galaxy Magazine*. — D. P.



HALLMARK

Hang 'Em High



This year, Hallmark will greet collectors with an expansion of its line of *Star Wars* Keepsake ornaments with the addition of Boba Fett and Princess Leia, both sculpted by Bill Rhodus. There's also an Ewok three-pack featuring Wicket W. Warrick, Lumat (with horn) and a mother Ewok with Wokling, sculpted by Katrina Bricker. Adding to the vehicles assortment is a spiffy new X-wing fighter with light-up engines, sculpted by Rhodus. All ornaments will be available in July exclusively at Hallmark stores.

COMING IN AUGUST **STAR WARS GALAXY COLLECTOR #3**

The weather's heating up, and so is our work on the next issue. We'll continue to explore *Star Wars* toys and collectibles past, present and future, and to keep you abreast of other developments throughout the galaxy. Here are some highlights planned for Issue #3:

- ★ An illuminating article on lightsaber toys and collectibles produced over the years.
 - ★ Decipher's *Star Wars* Customizable Card Game continues to expand, and its creators, Rollie Tesh and Tom Braunlich, tell us why.
 - ★ Find out how and why customizing *Star Wars* action figures has become a favorite fan pastime.
 - ★ The article on Riddell's *Star Wars* helmets slated for Issue #2 had to be pushed back to #3. We promise it for #3 (or we'll eat our hats!).
- Plus... Episode I update and free promo cards... new product reviews... "Around the Galaxy" with David Pipgras and Martin Thurn... Steve Sansweet's "Star Wars Stuff".... contest, giveaways & much more!

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RARE, BUT Sometimes Well-Done

These STAR WARS comics may be hard to find, but the hunt can often be well worth it

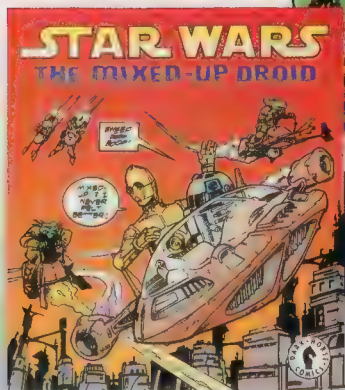
BY RICH HANDLEY

► Casual collectors of *STAR WARS* comic books usually limit their focus to Marvel's series published in the 1970s and '80s, and/or the various miniseries released by Dark Horse in recent years. For the die-hard completist, however, other comics are out there for the hunting, some by Marvel and Dark Horse, others far more obscure.

Most *STAR WARS* fans know of Marvel's 107 monthly issues, three annuals and *Return of the Jedi* adaptation, but a complete comic collection doesn't end there. In concert with the U.S. series, a weekly title was published in the United Kingdom, reprinting the U.S. material in smaller chapters and occasionally offering original tales, as well. Also published were the following:

Pizzazz, a 16-issue children's magazine serializing two Marvel U.K. tales by Roy Thomas and the





late Archie Goodwin. Difficult to find, the series commands \$15 or more per issue. (Dark Horse reprinted the first nine issues as *STAR WARS* #0, available from American Entertainment.)

STAR WARS: Four New Adventures in Full Color, a digest reprinting four U.K. Goodwin tales: *Way of the Wookiee*, *Weapons Master*, *The Day After the Death Star* and *War on Ice* (a conclusion to *Pizzazz*). Look for references to the first tale in A. C. Crispin's novel *Rebel Dawn*.

STAR WARS 2: World of Fire, a second digest reprinting of a three-part tale by Chris (X-Men) Claremont. Prices vary between \$5 and \$30 for each book, but patient fans can find them for less.

STAR WARS: The Further Adventures - Droid World, by Archie Goodwin, a book-and-record adaptation of Issue #47.

STAR WARS: The Further Adventures - Planet of the Hoojibs, by David Michelinie, adapting Issue #55. Aimed at children, these full-cast audio-dramas feature artwork superior to that in the actual comics. You can expect to pay around \$20 for each title.



BESIDES TRADITIONAL COMIC BOOKS, *STAR WARS* COMICS TALES HAVE BEEN TOLD IN MAGAZINES, ANTHOLOGIES AND PROMOTIONAL TIE-INS, SUCH AS DARK HORSE'S *DROIDS* STORY ON APPLE JACKS BOXES.

Droids and *Ewoks* cartoon spin-off series, lasting eight and 14 issues, respectively, each written by David Manak. Though juvenile, these hard-to-find issues fetch up to \$10 apiece.

Seven of the eight remaining U.K. stories were collected in 1997 by Dark Horse as *Classic STAR WARS: Devilworlds*. Varying greatly in quality, some of these tales don't mesh seamlessly into the *STAR WARS* mythos, but for those determined to own a complete Marvel set, *Devilworlds* is a must-have. Oddly enough, *Death Masque* (published in U.K. Issue #149 and the 1983 *STAR WARS Summer Special*) was not included in *Devilworlds*, making it the only Marvel tale never published in the U.S. Collectors can expect to pay upwards of \$20 for either U.K. issue in which it was published.

Dark Horse has had its own share of the rare and obscure, and no *STAR WARS* collection would be complete without them. These items generally fit into two categories: previews or collections of miniseries slated for publication, and original one-shots available as tie-ins with other products.

PREVIEWS/COLLECTIONS

Shadows of the Empire #1 excerpts, published in *Previews*, Volume VI #3, and in *X-Wing Rogue Squadron* #6.

COMICSCAN

Heir to the Empire #1, a three-page, black-and-white excerpt published in *San Diego Comic Con Comics* #4. Only attendees of the convention were given this preview, so it is very difficult to find and its price can run quite high.

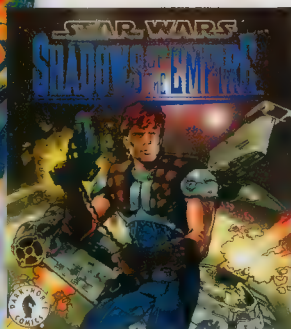
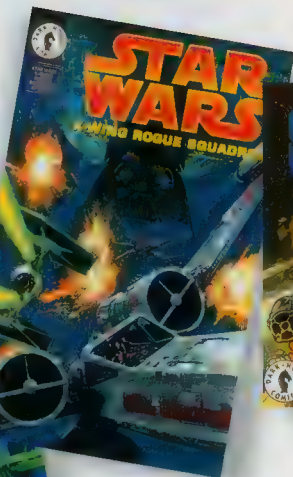
Dark Empire #1, available as a 99¢ preview and as the acetate-covered *Wizard Ace Edition* #13 in *Wizard* #67. It's a teaser for the trade paperback.

Dark Empire II #1, bagged with *Hero Illustrated*, Volume I, #17. Color variations and script changes provide an extra treat for collectors.

STAR WARS: A New Hope Special Edition, a trade paperback promotional giveaway in Seattle-area Act III Theaters, with a print run of around 10,000.

Fall of the Sith Empire #1, an alternate cover available exclusively from American Entertainment.

THOSE SEEKING A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF *STAR WARS* COMICS HAVE TO LOOK BEYOND THE MARVEL AND DARK HORSE TITLES.



TIE-IN PRODUCTS

The Mixed-Up Droid, by John Whitman and Ryder Windham, a comic-and-tape combination from T.W. Kids.

Fun, though juvenile, it can still be

found in bookstores at issue price.

Droids, a comic strip by Ryder Windham, printed on the back of Kellogg's Apple Jacks cereal boxes.

X-Wing Rogue Squadron Special, by Ryder Windham, available via mail-order from Apple Jacks. Unopened cereal boxes displaying either this title or the *Droids* strip can fetch \$30-\$50 at conventions, so obtaining them can become costly.

X-Wing #1/2, by Michael Stackpole, originally offered with a mail-order coupon in *Wizard* #67, now available from American Entertainment. A limited number were given to first-day theater-goers to celebrate the release of *The Empire Strikes Back: Special Edition*.

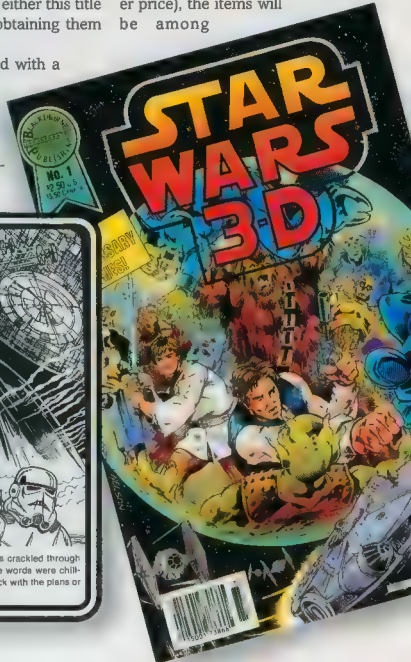
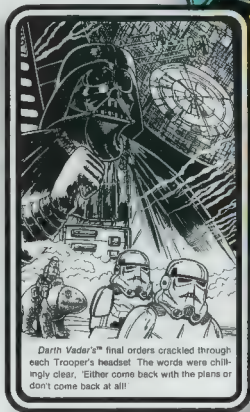
Boba Fett #1/2, by John Wagner, available with a mail-order coupon in *Wizard* #78.

Shadows of the Empire specials, providing excerpts of Issues #1 and 2, with new cover art. Special #527008 is available with Kenner's Boba Fett/IG-88 action figure two-packs, #530104 with Darth Vader/Xizor two-packs. Says Mike Tice, an avid investor and collector: "These comics, along with the Apple Jacks *X-Wing* issue, are my favorite promotional pieces because they get the Dark Horse brand name into completely new markets. This opens a new world of excitement for kids, enticing them to check out comic books at their local specialty store."

Shadows of the Empire mini-comics, three with Galoob's *Shadows Micro Machines* sets, one in Ertl's *Shadows* model kits. These minis contain artwork and scripting

divergent from those in Issues #1-6; the Galoob minis all contain the same interiors, but different covers.

In addition to Marvel and Dark Horse, a handful of other publishers have released *STAR WARS* comics over the years, and these are the true gems for collectors of the obscure. Some are extremely rare, unlisted in any formalized price guides. Suffice it to say that with the exception of the last two titles on the following list (which are still available at cover price), the items will be among



the most costly and difficult to add to a collection... but, then, that's half the fun of collecting.

Contemporary Motivators: STAR WARS, by Linda Cadrain and Charles Nicholas, a filmstrip/comic book combo designed for use in schools. This Holy Grail of *STAR WARS* comic collectibles, nearly impossible to find in excellent condition, was produced by Pendulum Press in 1977.

STAR WARS 3-D, a three-issue series published in 1986 by Blackthorne Comics. Annoying three-dimensional effects killed this series, and contradictions with previously established stories turned fans off, as well, but it remains among the most sought-after *STAR WARS* titles. Look for an unexpected reference to Issue #1 in Michael Stackpole's novel *X-Wing Rogue Squadron*.

Kenner Comic, writer unknown, packaged in 1979 with Kenner's Imperial Troop Transporter and Jawa Sandcrawler playsets. A cross between a comic and a pamphlet, this simple story details the search for the two droids in *A New Hope*, basically to sell the above-named toys.

Rocket's Blast Comic Collector #139, a 1977 magazine by James Van Hise. The magazine includes a two-page adaptation of the *STAR WARS* cantina scene by Kerry Gammill, which draws upon material from both the film and Alan Dean Foster's novelization.

STAR WARS manga film adaptations, by Hisao Tamaki. Originally published in Japan by MediaWorks, they will soon be translated into English and reprinted by Dark Horse.

The Art of Al Williamson, a 1983 biography by James Van Hise reprinting an unfinished adaptation of *A New Hope*. Intended as the debut chapter of the *STAR WARS* newspaper strips, it was canceled when Russ Manning was hired instead.

Bungo n' Rusti Get Carry-Out, a strip by Jim Anderson, published in West End Games' *STAR WARS Adventure Journal* #11. One of the *Journal*'s best entries, and funny to boot.

Comics-to-Color: An Ewok Adventure, a coloring book printed in 1997 by Golden Books, with a six-page com-

ic book adaptation of the Ewoks' introduction in *Return of the Jedi*. Strictly for die-hard fans or young children, but worth mentioning nonetheless.

With perseverance, a healthy bank account and more than a little luck, *STAR WARS* comics fans can hope to add these rarities to their own collections. Happy hunting! ☺

Rich Handley is a freelance writer and comics collector. He wishes to thank Mike Beidler, Jason Fry, Pablo Hidalgo, Scott Tice, Brendon Wahlberg and Daniel Wallace for their assistance.



CRAFTING 3-DIMENSIONAL LEGENDS

Sculptor's sculptor
Greg Aronowitz designs a
prestigious line of busts based on
classic *STAR WARS* characters BY GARY GERANI



"I WAS TRYING TO GO FOR SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE CLASSICAL. MORE OF AN art piece," explains artist/sculptor/filmmaker Greg Aronowitz, the guiding creative force behind a company called Legends in 3 Dimensions. "I mean, busts have been done since the beginning of time, yet people thought they wouldn't sell in this market, because the fans are really into the full-on action poses, with all that body detail."

"My instincts said otherwise," he adds, "and that's what really got the ball rolling. We're all merely human, we all have something we like that maybe the world thinks is a little eccentric. I wanted to make something that anyone can be completely at ease displaying in public, but that would still provide basic satisfaction, character-wise. It would just blend into the environment."

The result of that unique marketing gamble is a connoisseur's collection of magnificently sculpted cold-cast porcelain busts relating to the *STAR WARS* universe, each of them painstakingly hand-crafted by Aronowitz himself.

"My approach was simple. I just wanted to do the more unique characters," he recalls. So instead of the obvious Darth Vader, he chose Emperor Palpatine as Legend's dark side representative; Greedo, a brilliantly designed minor character in an unforgettable *STAR WARS* scene, was also selected as a prestige bust. Finally, the somewhat more obvious choice of Boba Fett rounded out the initial line-up. Coming soon will be a Gamorrean guard, Aronowitz's only full-figure *STAR WARS* piece.

"I intend to have 16 in this series," the sculptor points out with the enthusiasm of a super-fan—which he happens to be, in the most productive sense of the term. Down the line, Aronowitz hopes to satisfy *STAR WARS* fans with his visions of a Can-



AROUND LIFE HAS ACTUALLY PRODUCED TWO VERSIONS OF BOBA FETT, A SECOND ONE WITH HIS JACKPOT PAINTED AS IT LOOKED IN RETURN OF THE JEDI, WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK.

tina Band member, a Tusken Raider, Grand Moff Tarkin, Admiral Ackbar (the character Greg sculpted for his first meeting with Lucasfilm) and finally Princess Leia in her ever-popular slave girl outfit from *Return of the Jedi*. "That one will be a real challenge," Greg admits with a knowing grin. "It definitely has to be appealing and attractive without showing her body, which is generally the first thing people look for in that particular incarnation of Leia."

Nice work if you can get it, and the talented Aronowitz has been doing this sort of thing ever since he became a pro, dividing his time between actual movie assignments (working with Steven Spielberg on *The Lost World* or creating various aliens for TV's *Babylon 5*) and spearheading a company that specializes in high-quality, personally crafted sculptings for collectors. He knows what fans demand, because he has long considered himself a demanding fan.

STAR WARS really spoke to Greg when he was a kid. "I was eight years old when I saw it for the first time," he wistfully remembers. "And that changed everything. As a child, I was more drawn to the Disney-type fantasies than to sci-fi movies like *Logan's Run*, which was all they were making before *STAR WARS* came along. When I finally caught [the TV show] *Star Trek* in reruns, I was, sorry to say, underwhelmed. Just because this guy's got pointy ears, that makes him an alien? I couldn't buy it at the time, although now I can appreciate [the show] the way I'll appreciate a good play. But after you've seen *STAR WARS*, which was so cinematic, with all of that absolutely incredible detail, it was hard to deal with the limitations of a TV budget.

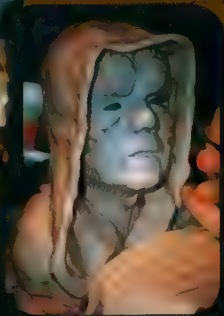
"As a matter of fact," he continues, "there was so much detail in *STAR WARS* that it definitely was the driving force behind my entire creative career. I sat in the theater, and never did it break the story for me, but I was always aware that everything you saw was manufactured—somebody made that—it

The Aronowitz Technique

"I don't do sketches. It's a bust. All the subtleties come from the dimension of it, and there's nothing that I'm going to capture in a drawing. And it's the same thing with the bases. Each represents something unique about the character it supports."

"Next step is the initial sculpting. I start with a strong armature, usually made out of aluminum wire and tin foil. I also use Super Sculpy (a paste-like ingredient). There are three tools I'm most comfortable with: a little dental spatula, a rake and a brush. I'll roll up a ball of clay and stick it on, then instead of scraping or pushing the clay around, I'll use the brush."

"Most of the work for the Legends line is in the processing. After the sculpture is approved, we take a preliminary mold and do an epoxy casting. I probably spend more time on casting than I do on the actual sculpture. I clean up all the texture areas, trying to take out rake lines and make sure there are no bubbles. I want it to look like there's been some time taken to really get things right."



wasn't like *Kramer Vs. Kramer*. Everything, down to the forks they ate with to the vehicles they drove, to the people they conversed with, who were aliens. So I said, I need to be a part of that procedure.

"At no time did you doubt the *STAR WARS* universe; it was 100% believable, a slice of life from a different galaxy. The fact that they went to Tunisia, to make it look like an alien environment, rather than doing it in the Vasquez rocks, the usual location for that sort of thing, was

just great. You sit there and you say, 'Is that really on Earth?' It looks so foreign. The amount of artistic ability that went into [the making of the trilogy] struck a chord with me, and laid out the career path before me.

"From creating the story, to the concept, to the artwork, to the directing—across the board—*STAR WARS* presented the possibilities that you can do all this. George Lucas was this young guy who had an idea; then he put it together, he sold it and he managed to maintain control. He proved you don't have to come from the studio system [to make it as a filmmaker]. You can just be creative and rise up."

Aronowitz was busy being creative years before he became a pro, making handcrafted *STAR WARS* action figures for his friends back in the '80s. But sculpting took a back seat to model-making and illustration during the early stages of his career, mostly because of disenchantment with commercial product limitations. "I did a bunch of sculptings for different manufacturers, including Mattel, and I realized that I really hated it," Aronowitz recalls. "I'd create the piece, and then it would have to go through the different approvals and steps and everyone had to be happy with it, including me. Then months later I'd see the finished product in the store, and I'd go 'Wait a minute, I made that piece, but it looks nothing like I intended it to be!'

"There's got to be a way for the

artist to follow through," Aronowitz insists, adding that "there's no point in creating a piece of art if you can't have continuity all the way through. And there's no point in anyone owning something if the person who created it isn't happy with it."

Intense feelings of this kind inevitably led to the creation of Legends in 3 Dimensions, a company that would be responsive to the needs of both creator and collector. "I had the idea for the busts, and did some prototypes," Aronowitz remembers. "Then I was introduced through a mutual friend, the comics artist Rob Liefeld, to Henry and JoAnne Unger, who were brokering for different manufacturers at the time. Henry was looking for sculptors, because he was thinking of creating a company. So we met, and it was just one of those things. Y'know, my chocolate and his peanut butter. It just sort of meshed.

"The Ungers were open to the idea of the busts. So Henry asked me, 'What licenses would you like to do?' I made a list of 20 licenses, and it was one of those amazing cases where, watch out what you ask for... because Henry got us all 20! *STAR WARS* was at the top of my list, of course, followed by *The X-Files*." Aronowitz attended a meeting at Skywalker Ranch to finalize everyone's plans, and before long Legends was underway.

The end products are nothing short of breathtaking, befitting their prestige status. "Prices range from between \$99 and \$199," clarifies the sculptor. "They're all pretty much the same scale, a quarter scale, but Boba Fett's backpack almost doubled him in size. The Emperor is about \$149, and Greedo is in the same price range. Boba's coming in at around \$200, because of the difficulty of the paint job."

As Aronowitz gears up for these major product releases, he hasn't forgotten his original, primary goal: a career making George Lucas-inspired fantasy movies. "I've just signed on with Showtime to direct a TV series for them," he explains, adding that he also just sold a sci-fi script that will "hopefully go into production this summer. Obviously, I want to be very diverse and well-rounded. The only way you can really know how anything works is to be involved from the inside-out,



**GREEDO,
THE BOUNTY
HUNTING RODIAN
AFTER HAN SOLO,
LOOKS INNOCENT
ENOUGH IN
ARONOWITZ'S
INTERPRETATION.**

and Legends, has certainly showed me how the whole merchandising world works."

Now, there are other challenging worlds to conquer. Artist, sculptor, merchandiser and upcoming filmmaker Greg Aronowitz is pushing his considerable talents to the max and impressing fans and pros alike in the process. And it all started a long time ago, far, far away, in that ever-inspiring galaxy of imagination conceived by George Lucas. ☺

Longtime Topps and STAR WARS collaborator Gary Gerani profiled Drew Struzan in SWGC #1.

BOX ART: Drawn (And Painted) By Drew

"Drew Struzan has always been my favorite artist," says Greg Aronowitz, "and the first illustrator to make me recognize continuity of style. I asked him to do the artwork for Legends' *STAR WARS* packaging, because I felt his work was synonymous with the films. (Struzan, of course, illustrated great posters and book covers for the saga—Ed.)

"Drew suggested that he paint me as a character on the box, so he depicted me as an X-wing pilot. He used the body of Luke on Bespin, although we're actually on Dagobah. It's on every box, along with the other Drew illustrations. The front panel is the actual product that's in the box; then on one side you'll find R2-D2 and C-3PO, and on the other side a bunch of stormtroopers rushing in. On the back is me in this X-wing outfit.

"I thought Lucasfilm was going to say no to my cameo appearance, but they had a great time with it. The only adjustment? I couldn't be holding a lightsaber, because, they said, 'I wasn't a Jedi yet.'"



BEST FOOT FORWARD

Hasbro Designer Todd Wise steps up to answer questions about the company's phenomenal line of 12" *STAR WARS* characters By BOB WOODS

*The classic argument over whether "bigger is better" or "small is beautiful" can certainly be applied to the public's preference for *STAR WARS* figures made by Hasbro/Kenner. However, there will be no clear winner in that debate. For as much as fans have loved to play with and collect Kenner's ubiquitous line of 3 1/4" *STAR WARS* action figures for more than 20 years, the emergence just two years ago of Hasbro's 12" character figures has taken that same world, albeit a more concentrated one, by storm. There are far too few of the foot-high figures, but they've had a huge impact on many *STAR WARS* fans. ★ To learn more about the development and nurturing of the line, and why the figures can be so darned hard to find, SWGC hit the road to Rhode Island and Hasbro headquarters in Pawtucket. Befitting someone who's largely responsible for the overall look of the 12" articulated figures, Senior Design Director Todd Wise was extremely articulate in offering words of wisdom about the past, present and future of the line.*

Snowtrooper



SWGC: The original four 12" figures—Luke, Vader, Obi-Wan and Han—were a huge hit and a sell-out, with adults and kids. What was the initial strategy that led to the line?

TW: We knew Kenner had a lot of success, with collectors as well as kids, with the 3 1/4" line. And we had a group of people internally who had a great fondness for 12" figures, who were looking at 12" as a category unto itself, because when you do a 12" figure, you can execute in different ways than you can with a 3 1/4" figure. For example, you can get a lot more realistic detailing into the face, purely because of the scale. And [they] have articulation, which is significant, [because] we knew collectors not only like to collect them, but also display them and put them in dioramas and position them. We wanted to take full advantage of that.

SWGC: Was the line mostly targeted to adult collectors?

TW: We knew kids would buy into it, but the initial thinking was that it was primarily an adult collector's product. The thinking was because of the price point—\$20 to \$24 retail, not \$5 to \$6 like small figures—it was an older, different market. The 12" figures didn't have a preset play pattern in kids' minds. But subsequently we found that kids really do buy them, they do play with them, but still the majority is the collector.

SWGC: When was the idea for the line first hatched?

TW: In 1995, when we first came up with the original prototypes. They were little raw, but looked pretty good in the first handmade, sewn samples. We thought so highly of them, we wanted to put together a special presentation for



AT-AT Driver

Luke
In Hoth gear



Lucasfilm. We went out to the [Skywalker] Ranch with a series of different products. We knew they were going to be pretty well received, but we were surprised at how much Lucasfilm liked them.

SWGC: What types of research did you do?

TW: We do a lot of kid research, in terms of testing sizes of products, through an in-house "fun lab" here in the facility. We collect research in conjunction with the Cincinnati group [Kenner] to make sure that we know what the collectors want. And there's a little internal research, too. We have a lot of really talented toy people here, and we ask them what they think. We also talked to retailers to see if [\$20 to \$25] would be a palatable price point. Originally the price was going to potentially be a little bit higher, and we took some things out of the product to bring the price down.

SWGC: What kind of back and forth did you have with Lucasfilm after showing the original prototypes?

TW: We brought out some finished sculptures of the faces and heads of the primary characters to give them an idea of... our early approach to some of the intricate parts, like Han Solo's face. The famous quote is that Stacy Mollenberg [Lucas Licensing's Manager of Domestic Product Development] knows more about Harrison Ford's face than his wife does. But it's really true—they know all the intricacies. But we weren't necessarily

there to get the final approval. We knew we would have to come back. Subsequent meetings got into the very minute detail, such as the leather on Darth's hands, the buckles on his boots, the shape of his helmet and what his lightsaber really looks like.

The next steps are that you show Lucasfilm more final approaches to what the products are actually going to look like, all the components, sculpted heads, accessories. We bring out a swatch card that shows different fabric samples and a fully sewn outfit in that material. We take that information and turn it over to our engineering group and then they take that and run with it into production. It's a pretty straight process, from Lucasfilm directly into production. Of course, Lucasfilm sees things along the way and has final approval of production samples.

SWGC: How long does the whole process take?

TW: It depends on the item. We've done some in as little as two to three weeks. Generally it takes six to eight weeks before it's ready to be turned over to production.

SWGC: How many designers work on *STAR WARS*?

TW: We have in-house people and a pretty extensive freelance base. Generally, we have five internal people working on *STAR WARS*, and depending on the time of year and the project, there can be 10 to 20 people on the outside.

SWGC: Are some major *STAR WARS* freaks?

TW: Oh, yeah, "fan boys," all the way. It's exciting for them to work on it, and we rely on them in a big way to help us refine the product and understand which

Han
In Hoth gear



ones it's really important to go with. To go to the Ranch and do the review process is a really big deal [for them].

SWG: Is Hasbro's New Ventures unit just for *STAR WARS*?

TW: We just went through a name change, to Hasbro Direct. Kid Dimension was the first name, then New Ventures. We've been in operation for six years. We handle a number of in-house licenses, as well as other external licenses. *STAR WARS* is very important, but we do other boys' licenses, like Batman, Superman and Warner Bros., and pre-school licenses like Barney and Teletubbies. We also do in-house brands like Nerf and Tonka.

SWG: How does your distribution differ from Kenner's for its action figures?

TW: It's not different because of the group we're selling to, it's different in how we sell the products. We sell what's called on an LC, or letter of credit basis. Basically, that means that we make a contract with a retailer, and they buy a certain number of goods from us and take possession of the goods in Hong Kong [where they are manufactured]. They take on the responsibility of bringing the goods into the country, and then warehousing, shipping them, that sort of thing. Any advertising and promotion is something they take on. Of course, we work in conjunction with them.

Greedo



Yoda



SWG: Are *STAR WARS* fans unique among your consumers?

TW: Yes, it's a group of people who definitely have their opinions on the way the product should be developed. We try to understand their needs and concerns, because of all the collectors of products we do, the *STAR WARS* group is the most vocal. We hear the most from them, and that's fine, keep it comin', because we love it. The more we hear about things, the better off we are in terms of servicing the market and getting new products out there that people really want.

SWG: What was the fans' initial reaction to the 12" figures?

TW: Generally, the response was very positive. There were some people concerned that one or two of our heads weren't quite right, so we honed in on the fact that collectors want these figures to be as authentic as possible. Every subtlety and nuance should be captured. So we addressed some of the second-year figures and made them exquisitely detailed.

SWG: Did fans influence your choice of figures?

TW: There was a huge outcry to do Boba Fett, so we came out with him pretty quickly. Some people wanted Princess Leia, and stormtroopers were in huge demand, so we came out with those. We listen to internal collectors, our fan boys, as well as retailers and the fan community when we come up with the figures. We don't want any duds.

SWG: What about the surplus of 12" Lando's?

TW: He sold very well—the people who wanted Lando went out and bought him in droves. The problem is that we probably overshipped. It's not that he sold poorly, it's that some of the others sold incredibly well. It's actually difficult to find 12" figures on the marketplace right now. As they open master cartons, collectors and kids are taking them right out of the package. They're not even making it to the shelf.



Jawa



R2-D2

concern that we'd put out a lot of these store specials in the marketplace, and all of a sudden we'd be flooded. There'd be too much *STAR WARS* product in the marketplace. So the safer position, when we didn't know any better, was to just keep the volume down, and that way they would be guaranteed to sell. Because we really didn't think they'd be as popular as they were.

What we're doing to rectify the problem for all the collectors who didn't get them this year is that the more popular store specials are going to be resold at those stores this year. You can go back to Toys R Us and get the Han/tauntaun special, the same thing with the Wal-Mart cantina special. They'll be exactly the same—same packaging and same content. I can't guarantee the price, but it'll probably be the same.

SWGC: What about offering individual figures from multi-packs?

TW: If we were to bring products out individually, they would be markedly different from how they sold as an in-store special. That makes the products different, but also preserves the initial value that the collector bought into. We're planning to offer Han as an individual purchase, but different [from the one] sold with the tauntaun. The new Han has some different decoration and a firing feature.

SWGC: There are rampant rumors of a 12" "Slave Girl" Leia.

SWGC: Is there a minimum number that you ship?

TW: It's totally case by case. Some are more popular than others, and even ones that are less popular [find] a market. Some of the more obscure figures in the first three movies are constantly being asked for. The problem is that there is a core group out there for the obscure characters, but the volume isn't that big on those, so we try to stick to the most popular ones, so we don't have the Lando issue again.

SWGC: What about store specials for retailers such as Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, Target and F.A.O. Schwarz?

TW: It was always in the back of our minds. We were hoping retailers would come back and ask us to do store specials. We were happy the line was that successful. It's a great way to come out with more product. The retailers benefit from it, and it offers the collectors a much larger breadth of the line.

SWGC: Will you re-release any of the scarce in-store figures?

TW: It wasn't our intent to short-ship the market at all. We would liked to have sold as many products as the market could bear. The problem is that when we designed the in-store specials, the first four figures were just hitting the market. Nobody knew how large this could be. There was a



Grand Moff Tarkin

TW: We have a prototype that is absolutely incredible. It's probably one of the best sculptures we've ever done, and the accessory pieces that come with it are quite unique. The materials are just right. We've taken all of our resources and put them together, and this is a real high-water mark for us in terms of product execution. [After this interview, F.A.O. Schwarz announced it will offer in September a two-pack of Princess Leia and R2-D2 as Jabba's prisoners.]

There are [other] good ones coming out, but we can't talk about them. We've been listening to collectors, and these are quite in demand. We're in a position now to do some characters, which I wouldn't call secondary, but maybe have a smaller role [in the movies].

SWGC: Will you offer accessories or clothing?

TW: We're not considering vehicles at this time. There are requests for things in the movies that aren't necessarily dedicated to a specific figure, and then there are replacement parts. And we've bounced around the idea [of clothing].

THIS IS

THERE'S REAL TECHNOLOGY BUILT INTO EVERY STAR WARS FLYING MODEL

ROCKET

FROM ESTES INDUSTRIES, BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THAT

SCIENCE

TO ENJOY AND COLLECT THEM

BY SUE SESERMAN

AN ENORMOUS DEATH STAR LOOMS OVERHEAD. The *Millennium Falcon* dodges asteroids. X-wings and TIE fighters dogfight amongst the stars. The impact of *STAR WARS* wouldn't be the same without these remarkable flying vehicles. After all, to fly is to shake the reality of gravity and soar at breakneck speeds into the imagination.

The ability to, on a miniature scale, capture flight and provide that thrilling experience to Earth-bound consumers inspired Estes Industries founder Vern Estes, a machine designer and contractor, to develop a rocket engine back at the beginning of the space age. He designed a small model rocket for hobbyists, plus a machine that would enable him to

manufacture reliable, solid, propellant model rocket motors. He placed a mail-order ad in *Popular Science* magazine offering his rocket kit and three rocket motors for \$2. Today, Penrose, Colorado-based Estes Industries is the exclusive creator of *STAR WARS* flying-action models, as well as a leading manufacturer of various other flying rockets, boats and land vehicles.

"Our relationship with Lucasfilm began in 1976 when we were sent a copy of the trailer for the first *STAR WARS* film," remembers Mike Dorfner, Special Projects Manager at Estes. "We ran it over and over until we scratched it all up, and we immediately knew that the movie would be a huge success. We then contacted Lucasfilm to propose doing scale model rockets of the ships from the film, and they agreed. A lucky few of us got to visit the origi-

FOR 20 YEARS,
ESTES HAS BEEN
GENERATING
HIGH-FLYING
EXCITEMENT WITH
ITS *STAR WARS*
MODEL ROCKET
KITS.



nal Industrial Light & Magic studios in North Hollywood, and we took the necessary photos of the original models used in the movie."

The successful relationship with Lucasfilm continues, and Estes now features a full line of 25 flying *STAR WARS* models. Dorflier helped to start the line more than 20 years ago, and David Talbot, Estes' *STAR WARS* Brand Manager, develops the product line today.

"When *STAR WARS* opened at the local theater in 1977, I saw it four times the first weekend—twice in one night," Talbot recounts. "I remember being captivated by the magical special effects. It's a great space adventure."

Among the *STAR WARS* flying models in Estes' current line are versions the X-wing as a model rocket and a control line aircraft. The series also includes Darth Vader's TIE fighter, R2-D2, a Rebel snowspeeder, an Imperial TIE fighter and a Death Star that actually bursts apart in the sky. New for 1998 is the radio-controlled landspeeder.

When deciding what vehicles to make, Talbot explains, "We look for ones that can be made to fly in Earth's atmosphere. Producing an exciting model that's stable in flight and still holds true to the movie version can be a challenge."

Mike Dorflier addresses some of the more technical aspects. "It always helps if the spacecraft you want to model looks as if it will fly like an airplane, as well," he says. "A model rocket has to be aerodynamically stable as it ascends through the air. Any craft that you are trying to duplicate as a flying model rocket has greater success potential if it has appendages that can be transformed into guidance fins."

The engineers in Estes' research and development department design, build and test fly the models. They have engineering, modeling, flying and art backgrounds. Senior Product Designer Ron McClaren, who helps design many of the *STAR WARS* models, emphasizes that, "the key to making the models fly is giving them stability. This is true regardless of the size or speed of the model."

The model rockets are powered by an Estes solid propellant model rocket or a Cox .049 engine. Other models are propelled through the air by hand or catapult. Some of the *STAR WARS* models can hit speeds greater than 100 m.p.h. and attain heights up to 500 feet. The biggest *STAR WARS* model is the North Coast Maxi X-wing fighter, featuring an 18" wingspan.

The technologies and materials Estes uses to make model rockets has changed over time. "New manufacturing techniques allow us to be more creative," Dorflier explains. "Before, you might not be

able to mold a certain part in a way that was key to a project. Now you can, which helps remove roadblocks from creative product design." Talbot says Estes also has made some of the models easier to build so that people can enjoy the experience of flying a real *STAR WARS* model more quickly.

The *STAR WARS* flying models are produced as single model kits, complete launch sets and complete flying sets; the suggested retail prices range from \$8.99 up to \$99.99. Although the entire line of Estes *STAR WARS* models are available at hobby and craft shops and toy and discount stores, Talbot believes that the giant North Coast Maxi X-wing, developed in 1978, is probably the most valuable as a *STAR WARS* collector's item.

"Luke's X-wing fighter is our best seller by far," says Talbot, "and it's probably the most recognized

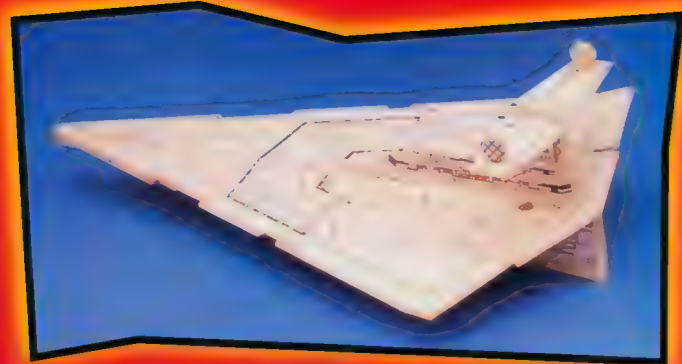


STAR WARS vehicle next the *Millennium Falcon*." The X-wing also happens to be Talbot's personal favorite—the big one because it's the same scale as the movie model. Designer McClaren prefers the X-wing's adversary, Darth Vader's TIE fighter, because "it looks mean and awesome."

It might not be long, however, before *STAR WARS* fans all over the world are choosing new favorites to fly at home. After all, when Episode I is released next spring, there will be a whole new generation of *STAR WARS* flying machines. Estes plans to be there to deliver them from the silver screen right into your backyard. ☺

Sue Seserman is a freelance writer in Denver, where, since this assignment, she's now anxious to test an Estes rocket in that city's rarefied, mile-high air.

BESIDES THEIR COLLECTIBILITY, ESTES ROCKETS ALLOW *STAR WARS* FANS TO FULFILL IMPERIAL AND REBEL DREAMS OF AERIAL DERRING-DO.



ESTES' STAR WARS FLEET

NOT LONG AFTER *Star Wars* first hit the silver screen in 1977, Estes Industries took to the skies with its model rockets based on the movie. The two have remained flying partners ever since. Now, to celebrate more than two decades of Estes *Star Wars* rockets—all of which are still available today—Estes Industries presents a showcase of some of the finest ones. *Clockwise, from upper left:* This model of Luke's Red 5 X-wing starfighter, which he flew to destroy the Death Star, soars to over 400 feet. Vader's custom-built TIE fighter, in which the Dark Lord pursued young Skywalker. The model is 26.5 inches long.

Yet Wings Balza catapult-launched glider model of a Star Destroyer—the very first vessel seen in *Star Wars*. For advanced rocketeers, the 2-inch high impulse X-wing is an ultimate flying machine. R2-D2 didn't fly on his own in the movies, but this model, from Estes' Commemorative Series (shown here with a flight probe), defies film strips, as well as gravity. This Death Star model literally bursts apart midair, but unlike its cinematic counterpart, it can be reassembled and flown again. This X-wing is propelled by a Cox Babe Bee .e49 engine, as is the snowspeeder, which has a 12-inch wing span.



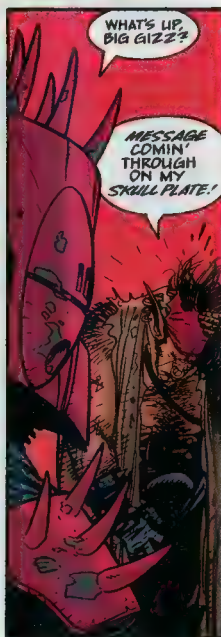
Celebrating ESTES

Two decades of high-flying Star Wars action and fun

**STAR
WARS**
GALAXY
COLLECTOR



Y-WING STARFIGHTER



Script - JOHN WAGNER Art - KILIAN PLUNKETT Lettering - MICHAEL TAYLOR Colors - DAVE NESTELLE

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YOU ARE IN *ILLEGAL* POSSESSION. WE ARE HEAVILY-ARMED. WE HAVE YOU IN OUR SIGHTS! *SURRENDER* OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

NEMPHAS-- THAT'S ONE OF GORGON'S FREIGHTERS. *ILLEGAL*. NOTHING. THAT HUTT'S GOT NO MORE RIGHT TO *SPY* ON JABBA THAN WE HAVE!

GORGON'S GOT A WHOLE FLEET-- WHAT DOES HE NEED ANOTHER SHIP FOR, ANYWAY?

JABBA-- COMPUTER-- WHATEVER YOU ARE-- YOU BETTER LET ME SPEAK TO THEM!

SORRY, CAN'T DO THAT, GIZMAN. NOT WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION. IF YOU'D CARE TO KEY IN THE OPERATING CODE--

I DON'T KNOW THE OPERATING CODE!

THAT'S A PITY. NEVER MIND, YOU'LL BE DEAD SOON ANYWAY.

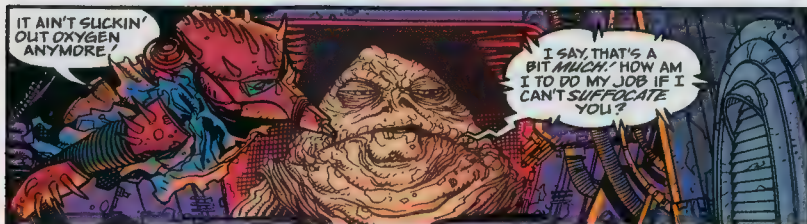
SHEEE--!

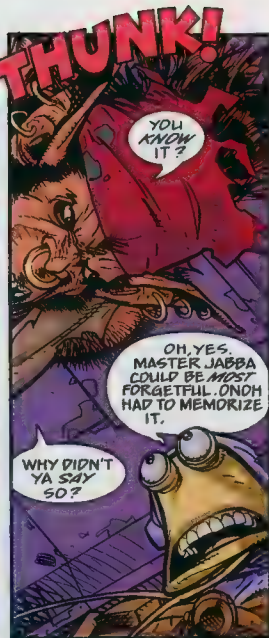
NO RESPONSE, SIR!

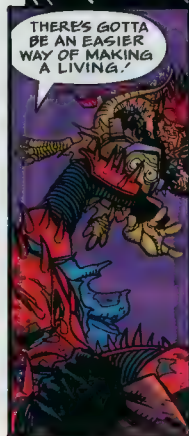
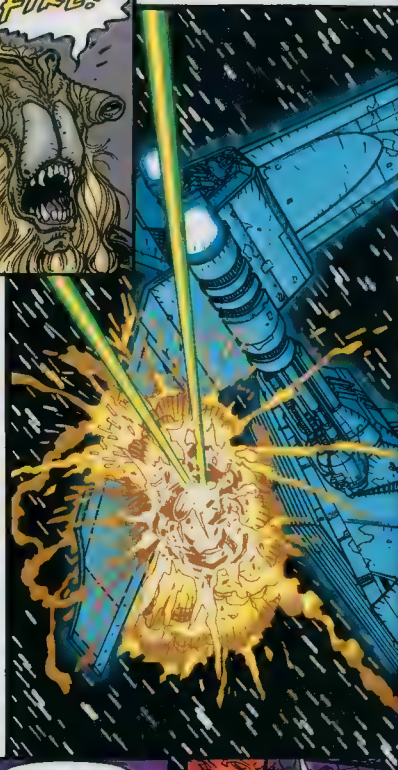
THE CARGO MUST NOT BE DAMAGED. *GUNNER*-- TARGET PORT WEAPONS BANKS!

ON TARGET, SIR!













NEXT: DEAD
WEIGHT!

RESCUED TRASH HEAP Of Hi

Finally, the untold story of unproduced Kenner Star Wars toys is told

► A yellow plastic missile-firing Boba Fett. A "Star Wing" Han Solo. R2-D2 with "Hopper" RC-5A. An action figure-sized Rebel Blockade Runner. A White Witch airspeeder. The Dagobah World Micro Collection playset. A pull-string Talking Yoda. A 2-1B "Doctor Kit."

No, I'm not hallucinating, and this isn't an advance peek at Hasbro/Kenner's 1999 *STAR WARS* line. In fact, it's a look back, part of what publisher Tom Tumbusch calls "The Unproduced Classic *STAR WARS* Toy Gallery." And that is part of the recently released hardcover version of the second edition of *Tomart's Price Guide to Worldwide STAR WARS Collectibles*. (In the spirit of full disclosure, for those of you who don't know, I'm co-author of that fine book, with Tom's son, T. N. Tumbusch, so what follows—though I hope you'll find it of some interest—can also be seen as an blatant plug.)

First, some history. Between the time that the original Kenner Products was granted the *STAR WARS* license in 1977 and the last new toy rolled off the production line

in 1985, hundreds of different items were produced, ranging from six different Play-Doh sets to more than 100 distinct action figures. But behind the scenes, Kenner designers, product developers, engineers and marketers were coming up with untold hundreds of additional concepts, some of which were only discussed, while others resulted in just a quick sketch or two.

But a surprising number of toys that never made it onto store shelves were actually mocked up, sometimes as prototype samples, before they were consigned to the dustbin of history. Even many of the Kenner employees directly involved in the *STAR WARS* line didn't know about a lot of these, because they were produced in a different department from their own. Fortunately for those of us who enjoy doing a spot of toy archaeology or sleuthing from time to time, many were saved before making it to actual dustbins, and went home with Kenner employees. (Some actually were thrown out and "rescued" from the trash, but we'll leave dumpster diving for another day.)

The Tumbusch men have been playing the roles of toy detectives for years. Tom worked in the advertising business, although his true passion was Broadway and musical theater. He wrote several books on the subject, and

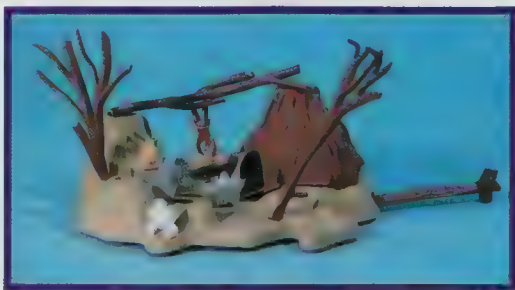
ended up designing and laying them out himself to get the best possible look. Bit by the book bug, he looked around for other topics to cover. Hooked on old radio show premiums, he sought out a book on the subject. Finding none, he started doing his own research. The first of five editions of his *Radio Premiums* book came out in 1977.

"I'm really not a collector, I'm a publisher," Tumbusch insists, despite the uncounted thousands of toys and collectibles of every stripe—though primarily Disney and *STAR WARS*—that crowd every corner of his Tomart Publications office in Dayton, Ohio. "But from the first, I was inspired by a book on the fossils of North America that seemed to have photos of every single fossil find on the continent. I thought that that was the kind of book a collector would really want, with photos of as many of the items listed as possible. So our collections are really a giant library that we take photographs of when necessary."

The breakthrough series of books were the Disneyana guides



AMONG THE *STAR WARS* TOYS THAT NEVER MADE IT BEYOND THE MOCK-UP STAGE ARE THE WHITE WITCH VEHICLE (ABOVE) AND A DAGOBAH WORLD PLAYSET.



from the story

BY STEVE SANSWEET

that Tomart published starting in 1985. The four-volume set shows an estimated 80% of all licensed Disney items from the 1930s up until the 1964 film *Mary Poppins*, and the books contain photos of about 26,000 separate items. The first three books were done by father and son while Tom was holding down a full-time job and T. N. T. was in school.

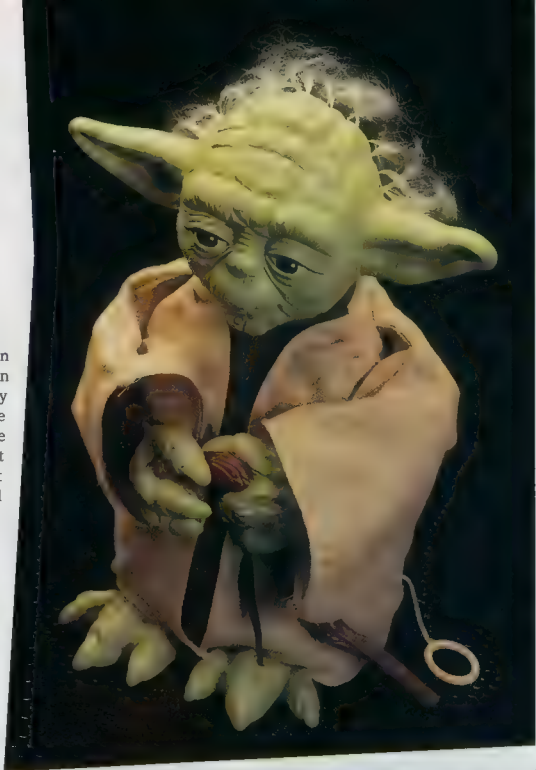
The Disneyana books opened the floodgates, and Tomart Publications became Tom's full-time job. In the years since, Tomart has published photo guides to Hot Wheels (licensed by Mattel), promotional glasses, McDonald's premiums, kids' meals, action figures, space toys, 20th-century books, garage sales, Mego toys, Golden Books, tin doll houses, paper dolls, two magazines (*Disneyana*, which is published every other month, and the monthly *Action Figure Digest*)... and, oh yes, *STAR WARS*.

"Lucy Autrey Wilson, Lucasfilm's Director of Publishing, saw our work, and in 1991 asked if we were interested in doing an illustrated *STAR WARS* collectibles guide," Tumbusch says. "When I first saw the film more than 20 years ago, I was blown away by it. I bought everything I could find then, including some early store displays, and put the stuff away in a garage. I told my son, 'Someday we're going to do a *STAR WARS* book.'"

Which brings us to the matter of my involvement. I had heard some scuttlebutt through the *STAR WARS* grapevine that Tomart might be doing a collectibles book on trilogy merchandise. I had been thinking about such a project for years, but I was galvanized into action by the Tomart rumor. So I called Lucy Wilson out of the blue and said something brash, to the effect that if anyone was going to do a *STAR WARS* collectibles book, it should be me. And Lucy responded with something like, "Oh yeah? Why you?"

Further conversations ensued, and one result was my first *STAR WARS* collectibles book—*STAR WARS: From Concept to Screen to Collectible*—which turned out to be an anecdote-filled, behind-the-scenes story of how things went from an idea in George Lucas' mind to a scene in a movie to merchandise on the shelves.

As that book took shape, Lucy decided that it made



THE ONE-OF-A-KIND TREASURES
FEATURED IN THE
HARDCOVER
VERSION OF
TOMART'S *STAR
WARS* PRICE
GUIDE INCLUDE
THIS PULL-STRING
TALKING YODA.

sense to partner me with the Tumbusches to jointly produce the collectibles guide. It was a wonderfully grueling job. I too had a day job, so I spent long evenings and weekends sitting at my computer, laying out my collection by category and starting long lists. Lucasfilm provided access to old merchandise files, catalogs and even the so-called "Toy Bay" where its contractual samples were stored. Because T. N. T. had just compiled a *Space Adventures* collectibles book, it was decided that he and his dad would concentrate on the Kenner toys—as well as the main photography, layout and production work—and I would list and price everything else.

My motivation in doing the book was more to list as many items as possible than to price them. I wanted to turn fellow collectors on to the wealth of foreign merchandise and even some of the more obscure domestic pieces. I'd like to think that the book was a factor in the explosion of *STAR WARS* collecting that followed.

After some delays, we completed an updated and revised second edition of the guide last October. And then, following a long-held desire by Tom, we worked on the hardcover edition he always had wanted to do. But we all agreed that it wasn't enough just to put boards on the covers and the book inside a slipcase. We wanted to make this a unique edition with a special bonus section—one that covered toys that Kenner never produced.

Being near Kenner's headquarters in Cincinnati and attending numerous toy shows, Tom and T. N. T. had already picked up numerous Kenner prototypes. The one I truly covet, as T. N. T. knows, is the plush Salacious Crumb in green velveteen that he has perched near his computer. There's just something about a one-of-a-kind or few-of-a-kind pieces that makes collectors salivate.

I had discovered in doing research for my first book, *From Concept to Screen...*, why the product development, design and concept people at Kenner had come up with hundreds of ideas that never made it all the way to stores. Those items had been done in by all sorts of issues, from timing to price points to manufacturing difficulties. Some were even canceled right before actual production because there weren't enough orders. Thus, many of the items existed as three-dimensional prototypes, and they were filtering down into collectors' hands.

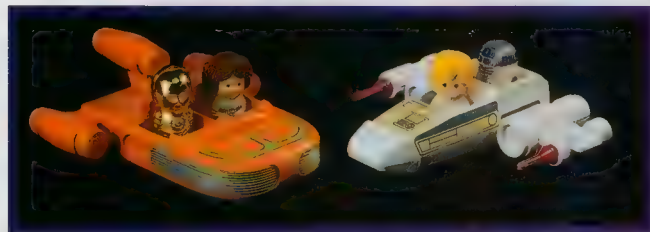
"The Unproduced Gallery really had its genesis years ago when we first started finding these unusual items," says Tumbusch. "One of the first was a real, unpainted, missile-firing Boba Fett with its hands chewed off. And when the first edition of the *STAR WARS Price Guide* came out, people started writing and sending us

Daren Murrer, are Steve Denny, Tom Neihsel, Gus Lopez and Jim Stevenson. I was able to supply a big chunk of missing Kenner history.

While Tomart has been actively photographing unproduced items for the last seven years, it was only when Tom sat down at the beginning of this year and spread everything out that he realized the immensity of what had been compiled. "I spent seven or eight days just moving things around to come up with the organization of the supplement," he says. Originally planned to be 32 pages, it grew to a 44-page "signature" just to be able to fit in all the cool finds.

One thing Tumbusch found really exciting was the realization that he was assembling the pieces of a puzzle that never would have been finished otherwise, because those pieces were in so many different hands. Take the White Witch, for example. The airspeeder was a major vehicle in the animated *Droids* TV series, and Kenner planned to offer it for sale in 1986. But the series wasn't renewed and the toy was never made. It took three different sources to provide illustrations

RIGHT: THIS BOBA FETT SET NEVER MADE IT BEYOND THE SKETCH STAGE. BELOW: ONE DESIGNER'S VISION OF A "STAR WARS BABIES" LINE THAT DIDN'T MATERIALIZE.



photos about things they had that weren't in the book, things that turned out to be unproduced items."

The whole area of esoteric Kenner toys heated up when some collectors and dealers began running regular ads in Cincinnati-area newspapers, especially soliciting unusual items. Daren and Kathy Murrer, owners of The Earth, a collectibles shop in Cincinnati, turned up lots of finds and always let Tomart photograph them before putting them up for sale.

"With the blessings of Lucasfilm and Hasbro to do the prototype section, we then spread the net wider and came up with either the items themselves or photographs of them that had been taken at the time they were made," Tumbusch explains. "We also conducted numerous interviews about the various phases of *STAR WARS* toy history and unproduced items in particular." Among the "super collectors" thanked by name in the section, besides

of the design specification sheet, an early mock-up, two views of a painted handmade model and the sample packaging. "Even one of the designers told us that he doubted it had gotten as far as a packaging mock-up," Tumbusch says with a laugh.

The supplement is divided into sections, with the first seven pages devoted to the mainstay of the Kenner line, the 3 3/4" action figures. Besides several variations of the missile-firing Boba Fett I had never seen before, there are vacuum-metallized C-3POs in the strangest colors and a different version of Gargan, the six-breasted dancer in Jabba's palace, than the one that I own. There's a great photo of six characters from the *Droids* series, some of them unproduced, with mini action vehicles accompanying each, none of which were produced. Thus R2-D2 with Hopper RC-5A.

There are multipage spreads on the Power of the Force coins that accompanied action figures, other unproduced vehicles, such as the action figure-scaled Rebel Blockade Runner (the actual mock-up, along with a blueprint), 12" figures in incredible "fashion" clothing (you'll love Luke and Leia in their disco duds and shades) and the most complete illustrated section on the unproduced playsets and figures for a proposed extension to Kenner's ill-fated 1982 Micro Collection.

Because I'm a big fan of innovative packaging, one of my favorite spreads is a comprehensive view of logo variations and card design for the *Revenge of the Jedi* (later, of course, *Return of the Jedi*) action figures and what became the Power of the Force line. On the latter, it's fascinating to see some of the discarded notions, among them *STAR WARS: A Space Saga*, *STAR WARS: Epic Adventures* and *STAR WARS: The Force Forever*.

"For a while, we seemed to be making new finds of unproduced material every other week," Tumbusch says. "But in the last two years, nothing really major has surfaced that we hadn't already seen."

I'll bet, however, that when the Unproduced Gallery starts making the rounds in Cincinnati, folks will remember some strange *STAR WARS* object up in the attic. And then the Tumbusches will have to gear up to take even more photos. 📷

KENNER ACTION FIGURES

An updated collector's price guide to Kenner's classic and current Star Wars lines

COMPILED BY JOSH LING

Original Star Wars line (1978 - 1985)

Luke Skywalker

CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE
"SW 12-back	on Tatooine/telescoping saber	1200-1500
	- yellow hair	
SW 12-back	on Tatooine/yellow hair	300-340
other SW card	on Tatooine/yellow hair	250-275
ESB card	on Tatooine/yellow or brown hair	200-220
ROT1 card	on Tatooine/yellow or brown hair	150-175
ROT1 card	in gumpot/yellow or brown hair	150-175
Trilogo card	in gumpot/yellow or brown hair	125-150
"loose	telescoping saber - yellow hair	200-225
loose	yellow or brown hair	25-30

Princess Leia Organa

SW 12-back	300-325
other SW card	275-300
ESB card	275-300
ROT1 card	350-375
Trilogo card	150-140
loose	30-40

Chewbacca

12-back	combed back hair/black or green crossbow	100-200
other SW card	combed back hair	100-110
ESB card	combed back hair	60-70
ROT1 card	combed back hair	40-50
ROT1 card	frizzy hair	40-50
POTF card	frizzy hair	95-110
Trilogo card	frizzy hair	40-50
loose	w/ green crossbow	30-35
loose	w/ black crossbow	12-14

Han Solo

SW 12-back	holding gun w/ one hand/small head	500-525
SW 12-back	holding gun w/ one hand/large head	550-580
other SW card	holding gun w/ one hand/large head	390-410
other SW card	holding gun w/ one hand/small head	400-450
ESB card	holding gun w/ one hand/small head	500+
ESB card	holding gun w/ one hand/large head	225-250
ROT1 card	holding gun w/ one hand/large head	150-170
ROT1 card	holding gun w/ both hands/large head	150-170
Trilogo card	holding gun w/ both hands/large head	150-170
loose	small head	35-40
loose	large head	30-35

Artoo-Detoo (R2-D2)

SW 12-back	135-150
other SW card	100-115
ESB card	60-70
loose	75-115

See-Threepio (C-3PO)

SW 12-back		135-150
SW 12-back	Takara head/torso sculpt	135-150
other SW card		100-115
ESB card		60-70
loose		12-14
loose	Takara head/torso sculpt	20-25

Ben (Obi-Wan) Kenobi

"SW 12-back	hood down/telescoping lightsaber, white or gray hair	2400+
SW 12-back	hood down/white or gray hair	200-220
other SW card	hood down/white or gray hair	120-140
ESB card	hood down/white or gray hair	00-95

CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE
ROT1 card	hood down/white or gray hair	45-60
ROT1 card	hood up/white or gray hair	45-60
POTF card	hood up /white or gray hair	95-110
Trilogo card	hood up /white or gray hair	45-60
"loose	w/ telescoping lightsaber, white or gray hair	400+
loose	white or gray hair	14-16

Darth Vader

"SW 12-back	w/ lightsaber/telescoping lightsaber	2400+
SW 12-back	w/ lightsaber/Takara head sculpt	200-220
SW 12-back	w/ lightsaber	190-210
other SW card	w/ lightsaber	125-135
ESB card	w/ lightsaber	70-90
ROT1 card	w/ lightsaber	50-60
ROT1 card	pointing	50-60
POTF card	w/ lightsaber	95-110
Trilogo card	w/ lightsaber	50-60
"loose	w/ telescoping lightsaber	400+
loose		12-14
loose	Takara head sculpt	20-25

Stormtrooper

SW 12-back	two stormtroopers	220-240
other SW card	two stormtroopers	140-150
ESB card	two stormtroopers/may be packed w/ larger than normal gun	75-90
ROT1 card	two stormtroopers	45-55
Imperial Stormtrooper	two stormtroopers	155-165
POTF card	two stormtroopers	155-165
Stormtrooper (Card Imperial)	one stormtrooper	70-80
Trilogo card	one stormtrooper	12-15
loose	w/ smaller or larger gun	

Jawa

"SW 12-back	Jawa shooting right/vinyl cape	2500+
SW 12-back	Jawa shooting right/cloth cape	180-200
other SW card	Jawa shooting right/cloth cape	80-90
ESB card	Jawa shooting right/cloth cape	50-60
ROT1 card	Jawa shooting right/cloth cape	40-50
POTF card	Jawa shooting right/cloth cape	80-90
Trilogo card	Jawa shooting left/cloth cape	40-50
"loose	vinyl cape	200-220
loose	cloth cape	12-14

Sand People

SW 12-back	solid cheek tubes	220-240
other SW card	solid cheek tubes	135-145
ESB card	solid cheek tubes	100-115

Tusken Raider (Sand People)

ROT1 card	solid or hollow cheek tubes	80-90
Tusken Raider (Sand People) (Homme des Sables)	solid or hollow cheek tubes	50-65
Trilogo card	solid or hollow cheek tubes	14-16
loose	solid or hollow cheek tubes	

Death Squad Commander

SW 12-back	200-220
other SW card	120-130
ESB card	250-300
ESB card	90-100
ROT1 card	80-90

Star Destroyer Commander

loose	12-14
Luke Skywalker:	
X-wing Pilot	
SW card	160-175
ESB card	115-125
Luke Skywalker (X-wing fighter pilot)	

CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE
ROT1 card		50-60
POTF card		110-120
Trilogo card		60-75
loose		14-16

Greedo

SW card		155-170
ESB card		125-140
ROT1 card		40-55
Trilogo card	(card front not Trilogo - card back is)	60-75
loose		12-14

Hammerhead

SW card		155-170
ESB card		125-140
ROT1 card		40-55
Trilogo card	(card front not Trilogo - card back is)	60-75
loose		12-14

Snaggletooth

SW card	red/short	140-150
ESB card	red/short	110-120
ROT1 card	red/short	60-70
Trilogo card	(card front not Trilogo - card back is)	
loose	red/short	70-80
loose	red/short	12-14
loose	blue/tall	160-170

Walrus Man

SW card		140-150
ESB card		110-120
ROT1 card		60-70
Trilogo card	(card front not Trilogo - card back is)	70-80
loose		12-14

Power Droid

SW card	150-160
ESB card	140-150
ROT1 card	40-55
loose	10-12
Death Star Droid	
SW card	160-170
ESB card	140-150
ROT1 card	60-70
Trilogo card	35-65
loose	12-14

R5-D4

SW card	150-160
ESB card	140-150

Arhive-Defour (R5-D4)

ROT1 card	60-75
Trilogo card	60-70
loose	10-12

Boba Fett

white mailer box w/ Kenner paper insert	60-75	
SW card	painting of Fett shooting flame thrower 700-800	
ESB card	painting of Fett shooting flame thrower 280-290	
ROT1 card	painting of Fett shooting flame thrower 275-285	
ROT1 card	Fett against blue sky background	275-285
Trilogo card	Fett against blue sky background/ figure made of light blue plastic	280-300
loose		40-50
loose	Trilogo version: lighter blue plastic	50-60

Leia Organa (Bespin gown)

ESB card	3/4 angle/turtle neck or crew neck dress 150-165
ESB card	front/turtle neck or crew neck dress 135-150
ROT1 card	front/turtle neck or crew neck dress 125-140

CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE	CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE	CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE
Trilogo card	front/turtle neck or crew neck dress	100-110	POTF card	standing/dk. green skin, brown snake	225-250	Arttoo-Deetoo (R2-D2)		
Trilogo card	turtle neck or crew neck dress	20-25	Trilogo card	standing/dk. green skin, brown snake	50-60	ESB card	has sensorscope, although card doesn't note it	40-50
Luke Skywalker			loose	lt. or dk. grn. skin, cry. or brn. snake	20-24	Arttoo-Deetoo (R2-D2) (w/ sensorscope)		
(Bespin fatigues)			2-1B			C-3PO (removable limbs)		
ESB card	kneaps up/yellow or brown hair	175-190	ESB card		50-60	ESB card		35-45
ESB card	waist up holding gun in right hand/		Two-Onebea (2-1B)			ROT1 card		35-45
	yellow or brown hair	140-150	ROT1 card		40-50	Trilogo card		30-40
ROT1 card	waist up holding gun in right hand/		Trilogo card		35-45	loose		42-44
	yellow or brown hair	140-150	loose		10-12	See-Threepio (C-3PO) (w/ removable limbs)		
Trilogo card	waist up holding gun in left hand/		Ugnaught			ESB card		45-55
	yellow or brown hair	120-140	ESB card	blue smock	40-50	See-Threepio (C-3PO)		
loose	yellow or brown hair	10-20	ROT1 card	purple smock	35-40	ESB card	limbs are removable, although card doesn't note it	35-45
Han Solo (Hoth outfit)			Trilogo card	purple smock	30-40	See-Threepio (C-3PO)		
ESB card		70-80	loose	blue or purple smock	10-12	ROT1 card		35-45
ROT1 card		60-70	Dengar			See-Threepio (C-3PO) (w/ removable limbs)		
Trilogo card		45-55	ESB card		50-60	POTF card		70-80
loose		14-16	ROT1 card		35-40	Trilogo card		30-40
Lando Calrissian			Trilogo card		10-12	C-3PO (w/ removable limbs)		
ESB card	looking right/teeth not painted	60-70	loose			loose		10-12
ESB card	looking right/teeth painted	50-60	Lobot			(Twin Pod) Cloud Car Pilot		
ROT1 card	looking right/teeth painted	40-50	ESB card	standing w/ stormtroopers	40-50	ESB card		60-70
Trilogo card	looking left/teeth painted	35-45	ROT1 card	standing w/ stormtroopers	35-40	Cloud Car Pilot		
loose	teeth not painted	14-16	Trilogo card	standing w/ Bespin guards	30-35	ESB card		55-65
loose	teeth painted	12-14	loose		8-10	ROT1 card		45-55
Imperial Stormtrooper			Han Solo (Bespin outfit)			Trilogo card		110-125
(Hoth battle gear)			ESB card		105-115	loose		14-16
ESB card		60-70	ROT1 card		70-80	Imperial TIE Fighter Pilot		
ROT1 card		50-60	Trilogo card		50-60	ESB card	2 TIEs chasing Falcon	75-90
Trilogo card		50-60	loose		14-16	ROT1 card	2 TIEs chasing falcon	65-75
loose		10-12	Leia (Hoth outfit)			Trilogo card	2 TIEs (no Falcon in photo)	55-70
Rebel Soldier			ESB card	standing in doorway	120-150	loose		16-18
(Hoth battle gear)			Princess Leia Organa (Hoth outfit)			Zuckuss		
ESB card		40-50	ROT1 card	standing in doorway	100-110	ESB card		50-60
ROT1 card		30-40	Trilogo card	standing w/ hands on hips	70-80	ROT1 card		40-50
Rebel Soldier (Soldat Rebelle)			Princess Leia (Hoth outfit)			Trilogo card		30-40
Trilogo card		25-35	loose		20-24	loose		42-44
loose		10-12	Imperial Commander			4-LOM		
Bespin Security Guard			ESB card		50-60	white mailer box		15-20
ESB card	white guard - short or long mustache	60-70	ROT1 card		35-45	ESB card		150-160
ROT1 card	white guard - short or long mustache	40-50	Trilogo card		30-40	ROT1 card		35-45
loose	white guard - short or long mustache	10-12	loose		8-10	loose		10-12
Bossk			AT-AT Driver			Admiral Ackbar		
white mailer box		20-30	ESB card		55-65	white mailer box		16-18
ESB card	gun may have silver accents	100-120	ROT1 card		40-50	ROT1 card		30-40
ROT1 card		80-90	POTF card		340-360	Trilogo card		20-25
Trilogo card		60-70	AT-AT Driver (Conducteur du AT-AT)			loose		10-12
loose	gun may have silver accents	14-16	Trilogo card		30-40	Luke Skywalker		
FX-7 Medical Droid			loose		10-12	(Jedi Knight outfit)		
ESB card		55-65	Rebel Commander			ROT1 card	blue lightsaber	160-180
FX-7 (Medical Droid)			ESB card		40-50	ROT1 card	green lightsaber	90-100
ESB card		50-60	ROT1 card		35-45	POTF card	green lightsaber	125-150
FX-7			Trilogo card		30-40	Trilogo card	green lightsaber/cape may be packaged on or off figure	65-75
ESB card		45-55	loose		10-12	loose	blue lightsaber/cape closure:	
ROT1 card		40-50	Bespin Security Guard			loose	sewn or snap	50-60
Trilogo card	reversed	40-50	ESB card	black guard	50-60	loose	green lightsaber/cape closure:	
loose		10-12	ROT1 card	black guard	50-60	loose	sewn or snap	35-45
IG-88 (Bounty Hunter)			Trilogo card	black guard	45-55	Emperor's Royal Guard		
ESB card	gray or silver figure	100-110	loose	black guard	10-12	ROT1 card		40-45
IG-88			Luke (Hoth battle gear)			Trilogo card		20-25
ROT1 card	silver figure	80-90	ESB card		60-70	loose		12-14
Trilogo card	background is matted out/silver figure	75-85	ROT1 card		45-55	Emperor's Royal Guard (Garde Royal de L'Empereur)		
loose	gray or silver figure	15-17	Trilogo card		30-40	Trilogo card		20-25
Yoda			loose		14-16	loose		12-14
ESB card	sitting/lt. green skin, orange snake	70-80	AT-AT Commander			Biker Scout		
ESB card	sitting/dk. green skin, orange snake	65-75	ESB card		40-50	ROT1 card	short or long mouthpiece	35-40
Trilogo card	sitting/dk. green skin, brown snake	60-70	ROT1 card		30-40	POTF card	short mouthpiece	75-90
Yoda, The Jedi Master			Trilogo card		25-35	Trilogo card	short mouthpiece	16-18
ROT1 card	sitting/dk. green skin, brown snake	55-65	loose		10-12	loose		12-14
ROT1 card	standing/dk. green skin, brown snake	55-65						

CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE	CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE	CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE
Squid Head			Prune Face			Barada		
ROTJ card		30-35	loose		10-12	POTF card		100-110
Trilogo card		16-20	ROTJ card		30-35	Trilogo card		70-85
loose		10-12	Trilogo card		15-20	loose		45-55
Bib Fortuna			AT-ST Driver			EV-9D9		
ROTJ card		30-35	ROTJ card	full size AT-ST	30-35	POTF card		150-160
Trilogo card		16-20	POTF card	full size AT-ST	60-75	Trilogo card		120-135
loose		10-12	Trilogo card	model AT-ST	15-20	loose		85-95
Princess Leia Organa (Boushh disguise)			B-wing Pilot			A-wing Pilot		
ROTJ card		45-55	ROTJ card		20-25	POTF card		80-95
Boushh			POTF card		25-30	Trilogo card	reversed	60-70
Trilogo card		30-35	Trilogo card		15-20	loose		50-55
loose		10-12	loose		8-10	Luke Skywalker (in battle poncho)		
Nien Nunb			Teebo			POTF card		90-110
white mailer box		16-18	ROTJ card		40-50	Trilogo card		60-70
ROTJ card		35-40	POTF card		175-200	loose		50-55
Trilogo card		20-24	Trilogo card		25-35	Imperial Gunner		
loose		10-12	loose		13-15	POTF card		150-160
Ree-Yees			Wicket W. Warrick			Trilogo card		130-140
ROTJ card		30-35	ROTJ card	Spear packaged on left or right side of bubble	40-50	loose		80-90
Trilogo card		15-17	POTF card	Spear packaged on left side of bubble	175-195	Luke Skywalker (Imperial stormtrooper outfit)		
loose		10-12	Trilogo card		12-14	POTF card	looking right	375-400
Lando Calrissian (Skiff guard disguise)			Rancor Keeper			Luke Skywalker (Imperial stormtrooper outfit)		
ROTJ card		40-45	ROTJ card		30-35	tenue de Soldat Imperial		
Trilogo card		20-24	loose		15-20	Trilogo card	looking left	250-265
loose		11-16	Rancor Keeper (Gardien du Rancor Monster)			loose		160-175
Chief Chirpa			Trilogo card		15-20	Lando Calrissian (General pilot)		
ROTJ card		30-35	loose		10-12	POTF card		110-125
Trilogo card		20-24	The Emperor			Trilogo card		80-100
loose		10-12	ROTJ card		35-45	loose		50-60
Klaatu			POTF card		50-60	Romba		
ROTJ card	tan or gray legs	30-35	Trilogo card		20-25	POTF card		55-65
Trilogo card	tan or gray legs	15-20	loose		10-12	Trilogo card	different Ewok than photo on POTF card	30-35
loose	tan or gray legs	10-12	Han (in trench coat)			loose		20-25
Rebel Commando			ROTJ card	w/ camo or gray collar	40-50	Imperial Dignitary		
ROTJ card		30-35	ROTJ card	w/ camo or gray collar	300+	POTF card		80-95
Trilogo card	Colors retouched	15-20	Trilogo card	w/ camo or gray collar	25-35	Imperial Dignitary (Dignitaire Imperial)		
loose		10-12	loose	w/ camo or gray collar	12-14	Trilogo card		55-65
Gamorrean Guard			Princess Leia Organa (in combat poncho)			loose		30-35
ROTJ card	silver or dark armor	30-35	ROTJ card		50-60	Warok		
POTF card	silver or dark armor	180-200	POTF card		100-110	POTF card		55-65
Trilogo card	silver or dark armor	15-20	Trilogo card		25-35	Trilogo card		30-35
loose	silver or dark armor	10-12	loose		15-17	loose		20-25
Logray (Ewok Medicine Man)			Paploo			Han Solo (in carbonite chamber)		
ROTJ card		30-35	ROTJ card		40-50	POTF card	figure packaged under carbonite	50-75
Trilogo card		16-20	POTF card		45-55	Han Solo (in carbonite chamber) Han Solo (Emmur)		
loose		10-12	Paploo (Action Figure)			Trilogo card	figure packaged on top of carbonite	180-195
General Madine			Trilogo card		25-35	loose		120-135
ROTJ card	gray or olive hair	30-35	loose		15-17	Artoo-Detoo (R2-D2) w/ Pop-up Lightsaber		
loose	gray or olive hair	10-12	Lumat			POTF card		150-165
Weequay			ROTJ card		40-50	Artoo-Detoo (R2-D2) w/ Pop-up Lightsaber with Sabre Laser		
ROTJ card		35-40	POTF card		45-55	Trilogo card	reversed	100-120
Trilogo card		16-20	Lumat Ewok Warrior (Figurine Guerrier Ewok)			loose		75-85
loose		10-12	Trilogo card		25-35	Yak Face		
Klaatu (Skiff guard outfit)			loose		15-17	**POTF card		1200+
ROTJ card		30-35	Anakin Skywalker			Trilogo card		300-325
Trilogo card		15-20	white mailer box		35-40	loose		140-155
loose		10-12	**POTF card		1200+	Figure Multi-Packs		
Nikto			Trilogo card		80-100	Early Bird 4-figure mail-in set (Luke, Leia, Chewbacca, R2-D2)		
ROTJ card		30-35	loose		30-35	in plastic tray in white mailer box		380-400
POTF card		260-280	Amanaman			Star Wars Action Figure 3-Packs		
Trilogo card		15-20	POTF card		225-240	Android Set (C-3PO, R2-D2, Chewbacca)		
loose		10-12	Trilogo card		150-165	Villain Set (Stormtrooper, Vader, Death Squad Commander)		
SDS			loose		100-110			1500-2000
ROTJ card		30-35						
Trilogo card		15-20						

CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE	CARD TYPE	CARD PHOTO OR FIGURE VARIATION	PRICE	CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE
Hero Set (Han, Leia, Ben)		1500-2000	TNT-4 mini rig w/ AT-AT commander		NCSR	00 (orange)		8-10
Creature Set (Hammerhead, Walrus Man, Greedo)		1500-2000	Darth Vader Collectors Case w/ Boba Fett, IG-88 and Bossk		NCSR	01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
Droid Set (R2-D2, Death Star Droid, Power Droid)		1500-2000	Darth Vader Collectors Case w/ Yoda, Darth Vader, and Luke Skywalker (Bespin fatigues)		NCSR	loose		3-4
Hero Set (Luke X-wing, Ben, Han)		1500-2000	Droids Action Figures			R2-D2		8-10
Villain Set (Sand People, Boba Fett, Snaggletooth)		1500-2000	Artoo Detoo (R2-D2) Droids card		40-45	00 (orange)		8-10
Creature Set (Hammerhead, Walrus Man, Greedo)		1500-2000	loose		15-17	01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
The Empire Strikes Back Action Figure 3-Packs			See-Threepio (C-3PO) Droids card w/ Droids coin		40-45	loose		3-4
Noth Rebels (Han Hoth, Rebel Soldier, Pk-7)		1500-2000	loose		45-50	Stormtrooper		10-12
Bespin Alliance (Bespin security guard (white), Lando, Luke Bespin)		1500-2000	Thall Joben		15-17	00 (orange) w/ foil sticker)		16-18
Imperial Forces (Bossk, snowtrooper, IG-88)		1500-2000	Droids card		22-25	01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
Rebel Set (Z-10, Leia Hoth, Rebel commander)		1500-2000	loose		10-12	02 (freeze frame)		5-7
Bespin Set (Han Bespin, Ugniaught, Lobot)		600-900	Jord Dusat		22-25	loose		3-4
Imperial Set (Imperial commander, Dengar, AT-AT driver)		1500-2000	loose		10-12	Ben (Obi-Wan) Kenobi		45-50
Rebel Set (Leia Hoth (R2-D2 w/ sensor scope, Luke Hoth))		1500-2000	Ken Moll		22-25	00 (orange) long saber		40-45
Bespin Set (C-3PO w/ removable limbs, Ugniaught, cloud car pilot)		1500-2000	loose		10-12	01 (orange) long saber		8-10
Imperial Set (Zuckuss, AT-AT driver, TIE pilot)		1500-2000	Tig Fromm		45-50	01 (orange w/ foil sticker)		16-18
The Empire Strikes Back Boxed 6-Packs			loose		15-20	02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
Darth Vader, stormtrooper (Hoth battle gear), AT-AT driver, Rebel soldier (Hoth battle gear), IG-88, Yoda		500-550	Site Fromm		45-50	03 (freeze frame)		6-8
Rebel Soldier (Hoth battle gear), C-3PO, R2-D2, Han Solo (Hoth battle gear), Darth Vader, stormtrooper (Hoth battle gear)		600-650	loose		15-20	04 (freeze frame)		5-7
Sy Snootles and the Rebo Band			Uncle Gundy		10-12	loose	long saber	12-14
RTTI box		110-135	loose		10-12	loose	short saber	3-4
Trilogy box		70-95	Nez-Iban		22-25			
Max Rebo	loose	12-15	Droids card		12-14			
Droopy McCool	loose	12-15	loose		22-25	Han Solo		8-10
Sy Snootles	loose	12-15	Jann Tesh		22-25	Droids card		5-7
Action figure 2-packs			loose		10-12	01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		3-4
RTTI card	(2 figures randomly packed on generic RTTI card) (depending on figures)	15-30	Boba Fett		300+	loose		
Playsets w/ Action Figures (All are Sears exclusives)			A-wing Pilot		40-50	Chewbacca		6-8
Cloud City Playset (Han Bespin, Lobot, Dengar, Ugniaught)			loose		70-145	01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
boxed		380-400	**Vlix		50-55	loose		3-4
loose		140-150	Droids Glaslite card (released only in Brazil)		22000+	Princess Leia Organa		15-20
Rebel Command Center			**Vlix		1000+	00 (orange) 3 ships on belt		8-10
(Luke Hoth, AT-AT commander, R2-D2 w/ sensor scope)			loose			00 (orange) w/ foil sticker)		20-25
boxed		150-175	Ewoks Action Figures			01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8
loose		60-75	King Gorneesh		15-20	loose	3 ships on belt	8-10
Centina Adventure Set			loose		10-12	loose	2 ships on belt	4-5
(Snaggletooth, Walrus Man, Hammerhead, Greedo)			Lady Uryah Gorneesh		15-20	01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		22-26
boxed		600-625	loose		10-12	loose	2 ships on belt	10-12
loose		290-300	Dulok Shaman		15-20	01 (orange) short saber/long saber tray		6-8
Jabba the Hutt Dungeon (Klaatu Skiff guard, Nikto, DOD)			loose		10-12	01 (orange) short saber/short saber tray		5-7
boxed		125-140	Dulok Scout		15-20	02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		10-12
loose		45-60	loose		10-12	loose	long saber	3-4
Jabba the Hutt Dungeon (Amanaman, Barada, EV-pd)			Wicket W. Warrick		20-25	00 (orange) half circles on hands		40-45
boxed		320-335	loose		12-14	00 (orange) half circles on hands		30-35
loose		200-210	Logray (Ewok Medicine Man)			01 (orange) half circles on hands		35-40
Vehicles or Playsets w/ special-offer figures enclosed			loose		20-25	01 (orange) full circles on hands		10-15
Landspeeder w/ Luke Skywalker and C-3PO		NCSR	Power of the Force Series 2 1995 to present			02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
TIE fighter (SW box) w/ Darth Vader and stormtrooper		NCSR	Luke Skywalker			03 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
X-wing fighter (SW box) w/ Luke Skywalker and Han Solo		NCSR	00 (orange) long saber		30-35	full circles on hands		5-7
Millennium Falcon (SW box) w/ Han Solo and Chewbacca		NCSR	00 (orange) short saber/long saber tray		5-7	full circles on hands		5-7
Hoth Ice Planet Adventure Set w/ Imperial stormtrooper (Hoth battle gear)		NCSR	loose		12-14	loose	half circles on hands	12-14
Twin Pod Cloud Card w/ Bespin guard (white)		NCSR	Darth Vader			01 (orange) full circles on hands		3-4
Rebel Armored Snowspeeder w/ Rebel Soldier (Hoth battle gear)		NCSR	00 (orange) long saber		25-30	04 (freeze frame)		5-7
MTV-7 mini rig w/ AT-AT driver		NCSR	00 (orange) short saber/long saber tray		20-25	loose	half circles on hands	12-14
MLC-3 mini rig w/ Rebel commander		NCSR	00 (orange) short saber/short saber tray		8-10	loose	full circles on hands	3-4
PDT-8 mini rig w/ Z-10		NCSR	01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	Lando Calrissian		5-7
CAP-2 mini rig w/ Bossk		NCSR	02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker) sculpt from SOTE 2-pack		12-15	01 (orange)		10-12
			03 (freeze frame)		5-7	only available from club stores ESR 3-pack		10-12
			loose		12-14	TIE Fighter Pilot		15-20
			loose		3-4	00 (orange)		

CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE	CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE	CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE
.01 (orange)		12-14	Creedo		20-25	Han Solo in Endor Gear		
.02 (orange)		10-12	.00 (orange)		5-7	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		
.03 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		3-4	.00 (green w/out foil sticker)	blue pants	5-7
.04 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	loose				brown pants	8-10
.05 (freeze frame)		5-7	Death Star Gunner		20-25	.00 (green w/ foil sticker)		
loose		3-4	.00 (orange)		5-7		brown pants	15-20
Yoda			.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.01 (freeze frame)	brown pants	6-8
.00 (orange)		8-10	.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		3-4	.02 (freeze frame)	brown pants	5-7
.00 (orange w/ foil sticker)		12-14	loose			loose	blue pants	3-4
.01 (orange)		8-10	R5-D4		20-25	loose	brown pants	3-4
.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.00 (orange w/ and w/out warning sticker)			Lando Calrissian		
.03 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	straight button launcher		15-18	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
loose		3-4	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil or warning sticker)		5-7	as Skiff Guard		
Han Solo in Hoth Gear			straight button launcher		3-4	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
.00 (orange)	open right hand	15-20	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil or warning sticker)		5-7	.02 (freeze frame)		5-7
.00 (orange)	closed right hand	6-8	loose	L-shaped button launcher	3-4	loose		3-4
loose	open right hand	5-7	loose	straight button launcher		Emperor Palpatine		
loose	closed right hand	3-4	loose	L-shaped button launcher	12-15	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		8-10
Luke Skywalker			Tusken Raider			.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
in Dagobah Fatigues			.00 (orange)	closed left hand	20-25	.01 (freeze frame)		5-7
.00 (orange) long saber		15-20	.00 (orange)	open left hand	50-60	loose		3-4
.00 (orange) short saber/long saber tray		12-14	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)			Bib Fortuna		
.00 (orange) short saber/short saber tray		8-10	loose	closed left hand	12-15	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8
loose	long saber	10-12	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
loose	short saber	3-4	loose	open left hand	6-8	loose		3-4
Dash Rendar			loose	closed left hand		Rebel Fleet Trooper		
.00 (SOTE)		5-7	loose	open left hand	3-4	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		10-20
loose		3-4	Luke Skywalker in			.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
Chewbacca in Bounty			Stormtrooper Disguise			.02 under .01 sticker (freeze frame)		6-8
Hunter Disguise			.00 (orange)		22-25	.02 (freeze frame)		5-7
.00 (SOTE)		6-8	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8	loose		3-4
loose		3-4	.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	Grand Moff Tarkin		
Luke Skywalker in			.03 (freeze frame)		6-8	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		10-20
Imperial Guard Disguise			.04 (freeze frame)		5-7	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
.00 (SOTE)		6-8	loose		3-4	.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
loose		3-4	Jawas			loose		3-4
Prince Xizor			.00 (orange)		20-25	Weequay Skiff Guard		
.00 (SOTE)		5-7	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		10-20
loose		3-4	.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
Leia in Boushh Disguise			loose		3-4	loose		3-4
.00 (SOTE)		6-8	Momaw Nadon			ASP-7 Droid		
.01		6-8	"Hammerhead"			.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
.02 (green card)		6-8	.00 (orange)		20-25	loose		3-4
loose		3-4	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	Dengar		
Jedi Knight			loose		3-4	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
Luke Skywalker			Bossk			loose		3-4
.00 (orange)	tan vest/innie or outtie saber handle	50-55	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8	4-LOM		
.00 (orange)	dark vest/innie or outtie saber handle	8-10	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)			loose		3-4	loose		3-4
	dark vest/outtie saber handle	5-7	2-1B Medic Droid			Admiral Ackbar		
.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
	dark vest/outtie saber handle	5-7	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
.00 (green theater edition)			loose		3-4	loose		3-4
	dark vest/outtie saber handle	100-120	Luke Skywalker			Ponda Baba		
loose	tan vest/innie or outtie saber handle	25-30	in Hoth Gear			.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		10-18
loose	dark vest/innie or outtie saber handle	3-4	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
Han Solo (Carbonite)			.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		3-4	loose		3-4
.00 (orange)		10-12	loose			Garindan (Long Snoot)		
.01 (orange)		8-10	Hoth Rebel Soldier			.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7
.03 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.01 (freeze frame)		5-7	.02 (freeze frame)		5-7
.04 (freeze frame)		6-8	.02 (freeze frame)		5-7	loose		3-4
.05 (freeze frame)		5-7	loose		3-4	Princess Leia Organa		
loose		3-4	AT-ST Driver			as Jabba's Prisoner		
Sandtrooper			.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8	.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8
.00 (orange)		20-25	.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.01 (freeze frame)		7-9
.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8	.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.02 (freeze frame)		6-8
.02 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	.03 (freeze frame)		5-7	loose		5-6
loose		3-4	loose		3-4			

CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE	CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE	CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE
Han Solo in Bespin Gear			Death Star Droid w/ Mouse Droid					
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	Captain Piett		3-4	carded (freeze frame)		Oct-Dec
.01 (freeze frame)		6-8	loose		3-4	Pote Snitkin		Oct-Dec
.02 (freeze frame)		5-7	Ishi Tib		6-8	carded (freeze frame)		Oct-Dec
loose		3-4	.00 (freeze frame)		3-4	AT-AT Driver		Oct-Dec
Royal Guard			loose		3-4	carded (freeze frame)		Oct-Dec
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	Zuckuss		6-8	Spacetrooper		
.01 (freeze frame)		5-7	.00 (freeze frame)		3-4	(From the Heir to the Empire trilogy novels)		
loose		3-4	loose		3-4	(Expanded Universe fold out card)		Oct-Dec
Snowtrooper			Princess Leia Organa			Darktrooper		
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	(all-new likeness)		6-8	(From the Dark Forces video game)		
.01 (freeze frame)		5-7	carded (freeze frame)		3-4	(Expanded Universe fold out card)		Oct-Dec
loose		3-4	loose			Figure Multi Packs		
Nien Nunb			R2-D2 w/ Datalink and			Classic Edition 4-pack (Toys R Us)		
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	Periscope		6-8	boxed		45-55
.01 (freeze frame)		5-7	carded (freeze frame)		6-8	loose		15-18
loose		3-4	loose		3-4	3-pack 1 (Sam's Club (Luke, Ben, Vader))		25-30
Saelt- Marae (Yak Face)			C-3PO w/ Removable			3-pack 2 (Sam's Club (Lando, Chewie, Han))		25-30
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	Limbs		6-8	3-pack 3 (Sam's Club (R2-D2, stormtrooper, C-3PO))		25-30
.01 (freeze frame)		5-7	carded (freeze frame)		3-4	Star Wars 3-pack		
loose		3-4	loose		6-8	(Club stores (Luke stormtrooper, Tusken Raider, Ben))		20-25
EV-9D9 Droid			Luke Skywalker w/			The Empire Strikes Back 3-pack		
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	Blast Shield Helmet		6-8	(Club stores (Lando, Luke Dagobah, TIE pilot))		25-30
.01 (freeze frame)		5-7	carded (freeze frame)		3-4	Return of the Jedi 3-pack		
loose		3-4	loose		3-4	(Club stores (Luke Jedi, AT-ST driver, Leia Boushh))		20-25
Gamorrean Guard			Ugnaughts			Boba Fett vs. IG-88		
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	carded (freeze frame)		6-8	.00		14-16
.01 (freeze frame)		5-7	loose		3-4	.01		10-12
loose		3-4	8-D8 Droid		6-8	loose		6-8
Malakili (Rancor Keeper)			carded (freeze frame)		3-4	Darth Vader vs. Prince Xizor		
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		5-7	loose		6-8	.00		10-12
.01 (freeze frame)		5-7	Death Star Trooper		3-4	.01		10-12
loose		3-4	carded (freeze frame)		6-8	loose		6-8
Luke Skywalker			loose		3-4	Death Star Escape 3-pack		
In Ceremonial Outfit			Ree-Yees			(Han and Luke in stormtrooper disguises, Chewbacca)		
.00 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		10-12	carded (freeze frame)		6-8	.00		10-12
.01 (green w/ or w/out foil sticker)		6-8	loose		3-4	.01		15-20
loose		3-4	Lobot			loose		8-10
Princess Leia Organa in			carded (freeze frame)		July-Sept	Cantina Showdown 3-pack (Dr. Evazan, Ponda Baba, Ben Kenobi)		
Ewok Celebration Outfit		10-12	Chewbacca as Boushh's			.00		10-12
.00 (freeze frame)		6-8	Bounty		July-Sept	.01		15-20
.01 (freeze frame)		3-4	carded (freeze frame)		July-Sept	loose		8-10
loose			Orrimaarko (Prune Face)			Final Jedi Duel 3-pack (Emperor, Vader, Luke)		
Bespin Luke Skywalker			carded (freeze frame)		July-Sept	.00		10-20
.00 (freeze frame)		12-15	Mon Mothma		July-Sept	.01		10-20
.01 (freeze frame)		8-10	carded (freeze frame)		July-Sept	loose		6-10
loose		4-6	Luke Skywalker			Purchase of the Droids 3-pack (Uncle Owen, Luke, C-3PO)		
Endor Rebel Soldier			(From Dark Empire comic book series)			.00		20-25
.00 (freeze frame)		10-12	carded (Expanded Universe fold out card)		July-Sept	.01		10-20
.01 (freeze frame)		6-8	Imperial Sentinel			loose		8-10
loose		3-4	(From Dark Empire comic book series)		July-Sept	boxed		10-20
Lando Calrissian in			carded (Expanded Universe fold out card)		July-Sept	loose		8-10
General's Gear		10-12	Grand Admiral Thrawn			Jabba the Hutt's Dancers (Nystall, Greenta, Lym Me)		
.00 (freeze frame)		6-8	(From the Heir to the Empire trilogy novels)			boxed		10-20
.01 (freeze frame)		3-4	carded (Expanded Universe fold out card)		July-Sept	loose		8-10
loose			Leia Organa Solo			Mynock Hunt (Han, Leia, Chewbacca)		July-Sept
Biggs Darklighter			(From Dark Empire comic book series)		July-Sept	boxed		
.00 (freeze frame)		6-8	carded (Expanded Universe fold out card)		July-Sept	Max Rebo Band Pairs (Wal-Mart)		
loose		3-4	Clone Emperor			Droopy McCool and Banquin D'an		July-Sept
Lak Sivrak			(From Dark Empire comic book series)		July-Sept	loose		July-Sept
.00 (freeze frame)		6-8	carded (Expanded Universe fold out card)		July-Sept	Sy Snootles and Joh Yowzah		July-Sept
loose		3-4	Mara Jade			carded		July-Sept
Ewoks: Wicket and			(From the Heir to the Empire trilogy novels)		July-Sept	Max Rebo and Doda Bodonwreedoh		
Logray		6-8	carded (Expanded Universe fold out card)		July-Sept	carded		Oct-Dec
.00 (freeze frame)		3-4	Kyle Katarn			Deluxe Figures		
loose			(From the Dark Forces video game)		July-Sept	Deluxe Crowd Control Stormtrooper		
Darth Vader			carded (Expanded Universe fold out card)		July-Sept	.00		25-30
w/ Removable Helmet		6-8				.01		8-10
.00 (freeze frame)						.02		8-10

CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE	CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE	CARD VARIATION	MISC. VARIATION	PRICE
loose		4-5	Bantha and Tusken Raider			loose		6-8
Deluxe Luke Skywalker's Desert Sport Skiff			boxed		30-35	Swoop Vehicle w/ Swoop Trooper		
.00		8-10	loose		15-20	boxed		12-15
loose		4-5	Han Solo and Tauntonn			loose		6-8
Deluxe Han Solo w/ Smuggler Flight Pack			boxed		July-Sept	Speeder Bike w/ Luke Skywalker in Endor Gear		
.00		8-10	Princess Leia Collection			.00		18-20
loose		4-5	Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker			.01		12-15
Deluxe Boba Fett			.00		10-12	loose		6-8
.00		12-15	loose		6-8	Speeder Bike w/ Leia in Endor Gear		
.01		8-10	Princess Leia and Han Solo			.00		12-15
loose		4-5	.00		10-12	.01		12-15
Deluxe Probe Droid			loose		6-8	loose		6-8
.00		30-35	Princess Leia and Wicket the Ewok			A-wing w/ Pilot		
.01		20-25	.00		10-12	.00		20-24
.02		8-10	loose		6-8	loose		10-15
loose		4-5	Princess Leia and R2-D2			Millennium Falcon Carry Case w/ Wedge Antilles		
Deluxe Snowtrooper			.00		10-12	boxed		20-25
.00		8-10	loose		6-8	loose		10-15
loose		4-5	Millennium Minted Coin Collection			Millennium Falcon Carry Case w/ Imperial Scanning Crew Trooper		
Deluxe Hoth Rebel Soldier			Bespin Han Solo			boxed		Oct-Dec
.00		8-10	boxed		10-12	Electronic Imperial AT-AT Walker w/ AT-AT Driver and AT-AT Commander		
loose		4-5	loose		5-7	.00		70-80
Electronic Power F/X Figures			Chewbacca			.01		70-80
Electronic Power F/X R2-D2			boxed		10-12	loose		30-40
.00	MCSR		loose		5-7	Airspeeder w/ Airspeeder Pilot		
.01		15-20	Snowtrooper			.00		14-16
.02		8-10	boxed		10-12	loose		6-8
loose		5-6	loose		5-7	Cloud Car w/ Cloud Car Pilot		
Electronic Power F/X Darth Vader			Luke Skywalker in Endor Gear			.00		14-16
.00		8-10	boxed		10-12	loose		6-8
loose		5-6	loose		5-7	Speeder Bike w/ Rebel Speeder Bike Pilot		
Electronic Power F/X Ben (Obi-Wan) Kenobi			Princess Leia in Endor Gear			.01		14-16
.00		8-10	boxed		10-12	loose		6-8
loose		5-6	loose		5-7	Intergalactic Battle Game w/ Luke Skywalker in Trash Compactor and Darth Vader w/ Removable Dome		
Electronic Power F/X Emperor Palpatine			Emperor Palpatine			boxed		1990
.00		10-12	loose		10-12	Interactive PC Playset w/ Han Solo		
.01		8-10	C-3PO			boxed		1990
loose		5-6	boxed		July-Sept	Promotional Action Figures		
Electronic Power F/X Luke Skywalker			loose		July-Sept	Han Solo in Stormtrooper Disguise		
.00		8-10	Gunner Stations			(Kellogg's Froot Loops premium)		35-40
loose		5-6	Millennium Falcon w/ Luke Skywalker			Spirit of Obi-Wan Kenobi (Frito-Lay premium)		8-12
Beast Collections			boxed		10-12	Quinta Band Member (Star Wars Insider exclusive)		10-14
Ronto and Jawa			loose		5-7	Obi-Wan Kenobi (Internet/redemption coupon included w/ select Spirit of Kenobi figures)		8-12
.00		15-17	TIE Fighter w/ Darth Vader			Oola w/ Salacious Crumb (Star Wars Insider exclusive)		July-Sept
loose		8-10	boxed		10-12			
Dewback and Sandtrooper			loose		5-7			
.00		18-20	Complete Galaxy					
.01		15-17	Death Star w/ Darth Vader					
loose		8-10	boxed		15-18			
Jabba the Hutt and Han Solo			loose		8-10			
.00		24-26	Daygobah w/ Yoda and Flying Predator					
.01		18-20	boxed		15-18			
.02		15-17	loose		8-10			
loose		8-10	Tatooine w/ Luke Skywalker					
Luke Skywalker and Tauntonn			boxed		July-Sept			
.00		15-17	Endor w/ Ewok					
loose		8-10	boxed		July-Sept			
Wampa and Luke Skywalker			Vehicles or Accessories Packaged w/ Action Figures					
.00		15-17	Imperial Speeder Bike w/ Biker Scout					
loose		8-10	boxed		12-15			
Rancor and Luke Skywalker								
boxed		30-35						
loose		15-20						

NOTES:

* Regarding vintage telescoping lightsabers and vinyl caped Jawas: Be especially careful about fakes. Loose as well as carded fakes are known to exist.

** Vix and POT carded versions of Yoda-Face and Anakin Skywalker were not available in the U.S. They are included here in order to provide the collector w/ a complete list of action figures.

Even though Tullio carded action figures were produced and available outside of the U.S., certain areas of the U.S. did, in fact, have large quantities of this type. Prices assume all components present; the more mint the condition, the higher the price. MCSR indicates no current sales reported. A "*" indicates no upper bound is known. Assistance was provided by Wade Lagasse, Lance Worth of Star Force Collectibles, El Cajon, CA, Jennifer Donahoe of Hasbro.

Collectibles maven STEVE SANSWEET gives expert answers to your questions about STAR WARS stuff

◆ Being a *STAR WARS* collector, which isn't all that easy in a country like Norway, I've got a couple of collecting questions for you. Did LucasArts Entertainment Co. ever make another bronze statue after the Yoda, which was seen in their magazine/catalog in 1994? Talking about sequels, will there be another figure from Kenner Cinemacast? I love my Darth Vader piece. RUNE LARSEN, Trondheim, Norway
SANSWEET: Hey, Rune, you're getting to be a regular. But as long as your questions are of such general interest, I'm happy to run them for a collector in a land far, far away. The Yoda bronze, beautifully sculpted by California artist Larry Noble, was issued by licensee Kilian Enterprises to commemorate the 10th anniversary of *The Empire Strikes Back*. It was limited to 50 pieces, numbered on a brass plaque that also includes a 1990 copyright. If memory serves, however, it didn't start shipping until 1991. At \$400-\$500 each, the sculpture was initially a slow seller (it was marketed before the current *STAR WARS* renaissance), but the edition has been completely sold out for the last four years, and asking prices have risen to the \$650-\$850 level. While Kilian hasn't issued any more bronzes,



master sculptor Randy Bowen and Dark Horse Comics have so far issued two magnificent bronze sculptures. They are also limited to 50 numbered pieces, but the price is a bit higher at \$3,000. The first piece, Boba Fett, is nearly sold out. The second piece depicts the rancor about to devour a Gamorrean guard. I agree with you about the quality of the Kenner Cinemacast Darth Vader statue. It's awesome, and a similar-sized Luke Skywalker was slated to join it. Unfortunately, Hasbro/Kenner pulled the plug on the direct-market Cinemacast operation, and it's doubtful if there will be any more pieces in the line. If you liked Darth, however, I suggest you check out the new Legends in 3 Dimensions line, sculpted by Hollywood whiz Greg Aronowitz (see the article in this issue). You'll like the initial three pieces in the line—Emperor Palpatine, Greedo and Boba Fett—with many more slated to follow.

◆ I recently saw a Ben Kenobi POTF action figure that was missing its lightsaber in a store. I checked the package, and unless someone is really clever, it hadn't been opened. Is this some kind of error, and if so, is it worth any more to a collector? I purchase figures often, but I usually open them, so I passed Ben up. I've checked back once or twice and it's still there. Is it worth \$4.99? BILL MCKIBBIN JR., via the Internet

◆ I have a 12" TIE fighter pilot that is missing the silver "Federation Circles" that are supposed to be on both sides of the helmet. Is the one I have a legit variation, and if so, approximately how many were made. JOHNNY DAVIS, via the Internet

SANSWEET: Okay, let's try this one on for size. Say I collect cool-looking decks of playing cards, and I buy and open one deck only to find the king of hearts and queen of spades missing and both jokers only half printed. Is this a variation? Well, it is different. Is it worth more? Heck, no. I want my money back. A variation is when a company makes a toy one way (a vinyl cape on a Jawa, for example) and then fairly quickly changes it (switching to a cloth cape). It's not a variation—and certainly not of any value at all—when someone forgets to pack part of the toy or an unpainted helmet slips past quality control. Both are oddities, perhaps, but worth less than the retail price, in my opinion.

◆ Does Kenner intend on displaying their full run of action figures on the backs of their blister cards? I miss the line-up from the original line. Ditch the character picture, add the figures. Is there any chance of Kenner re-releasing the original line of figures? Finally, I'm interested in foreign *STAR WARS* collectibles.

How do I begin trading? MATT ZIMMERMAN, Roselle, IL

SANSWEET: You're not the first person to ask Hasbro/Kenner for a list and/or photo of the complete line of figures. But the company says that the line and all its variations are just too big to put on a card back in any legible sort of way.

They point collectors to the full list at www.starwars.hasbro.com—and to

this magazine when the Action Figure Price Guide is updated and refreshed twice a year (see this issue's price list). Kenner did a 100,000-piece run a few years back of four classic figures (made from the old figures themselves, not the original molds), but many collectors weren't happy and Hasbro has no present plans to do it again. Absent affordable classified pen-pal ads, the best way to connect and trade worldwide—bar none—is through the Newsgroups on the Internet. For starters, try rec.arts.sf.starwars.collecting.vintage and rec.arts.sf.starwars.misc.

COLLECTORS' COMLINK

♦ I was surprised to find a recent auction listing showing a picture of a rocket-firing Boba Fett with a white mailer box. This item was listed as "the Holy Grail of STAR WARS figures" and priced at \$1,500. So did a few rocket-firing Fetts get mailed or is this bogus? JAMES L. WILSON JR., Fulton, MD SANSWEET: Not having seen the ad in question, I can't specifically comment on it. But let me repeat very

clearly: There were NO rocket-firing Boba Fetts mailed out to the public; Kenner changed the design well before the first shipments went out. Rocket-Fett prototypes are now selling for \$3,000 and up... way up to more than double that base price, but are still nearly impossible to find. And the collector must be very careful, because there are lots of bootlegs out there.

♦ I have a Return of the Jedi comic book adaptation. How much is it worth? It's been in the attic for 30-some years, but it's in almost perfect condition. P.S. Please write back about this, because I don't get your magazine anymore. MATT SWETT, Lincoln, ME SANSWEET: Well, now, where do I start? A Jedi comic some 30 years old would indeed be a find! The film opened in 1983, and this is now 1998, and 98 minus 83 is, uh... most definitely shy of 30. While this column does discuss prices, it's in relation to good questions, not to value someone's personal collection. That's why I co-wrote Tomart's Price Guide to Worldwide STAR WARS Col-

lectibles, which lists the four Marvel comics serializing Jedi at \$2-\$5 each and the magazine-sized compendium at \$8-\$10. But you won't get that info if you don't pick up STAR WARS GALAXY COLLECTOR. The volume of mail is simply too great to provide individual replies. And while I'm on my soapbox, a tip of the hat to noted STAR WARS artist and all-around nice guy Dave Dorman. After he read a letter in the last issue of SWGC about an aspiring artist/collector who lost in a fire his Dorman litho of Boba Fett, Dave called to get the chap's address so that he could send him a replacement. Thanks, Dave.

♦ I recently read the script of the National Public Radio dramatization of *The Empire Strikes Back*. In the introduction, author Brian Daley mentions Craig Claiborne's own version of "Yoda's Incredible Herb Stew," also known as Rootleaf, which Luke ate while he stayed in Yoda's hut on Dagobah. He said the recipe ran in magazines across the country. I haven't been able to find it. Does it exist, and will you print it? KEN GULICK, Rising Sun, MD SANSWEET: Yes and yes, thanks to super fan Bob Miller, who has compiled an extensive and incredibly helpful database on media references to all things STAR WARS. He pointed me to the original February 1983 NPR press kit that contained the recipe prepared exclusively for the network by gourmet chef and author Claiborne. It ran in magazine guides of some of the NPR-affiliated radio stations, and was reprinted in issues of Comics Buyers Guide and Film Collector's World. It serves "eight hungry young Jedi." Let me know what time's supper!

* * *

YODA STEW

- 3 pounds lean lamb or other meat
- Salt to taste, if desired
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 6 tablespoons oil (light corn, vegetable or other)
- 6 cups finely chopped parsley
- 3 cups thinly sliced onions
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped garlic
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 2 tablespoons finely minced ginger root
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped seeded hot green or red chilies
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 pounds fresh spinach, well rinsed, tough stems removed



- 1) Cut the meat into 1" cubes; add salt and pepper to taste. 2) Heat half the oil in a heavy skillet and add the meat until the pieces turn brown on all sides. 3) Heat the remaining oil in a Dutch oven or heavy casserole and add parsley, onions and garlic. Cook, stirring often, until the onions are wilted. Add the meat, coriander, cumin, turmeric, ginger root, chilies, cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, bay leaf, and salt and pepper to taste. Stir. 4) Add water to cover, bring to boil and cover tightly. Let simmer about 2 to 2 1/2 hours until the meat is quite tender. 5) Meanwhile, drop the spinach into a kettle of boiling water with salt to taste and let simmer about 5 minutes. Drain well and run under cold water. Drain thoroughly. 6) Squeeze the spinach to remove all excess liquid. Place the spinach on a chopping block and chop coarsely. 7) Add the spinach to the stew and stir. Let simmer together about 5 minutes. Yield: 8 servings.

GOT A STAR WARS COLLECTIBLES QUESTION? Looking for some special item that may or may not exist?

Want to know how much your treasured trilogy toy is worth? Just want to vent about collecting? Send your letters—about collectibles only—to Collectors' Comlink, Dept., SWGC, P. O. Box 291609, Los Angeles, CA 90029, or to our e-mail address: swgmtpops@aol.com. Time won't allow individual replies, but we'll answer questions of broadest interest in the magazine each issue. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

What would the *STAR WARS* Renaissance of the last several years be without a *STAR WARS* Renaissance Man? Alex Newborn—*STAR WARS* fan, custom toy designer, video director, artist, collector and humorist—may have a lock on the title. Newborn, 28, lives in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and has been a *STAR WARS* fan and collector since 1977. Even throughout the *STAR WARS* doldrums of the late 1980s, Newborn was customizing his own action figures to fill in characters that Kenner didn't release during its original eight-year run of toys. But customizing was only the beginning, as he also worked on *STAR WARS* art, videos, humor and his collection.

Newborn began customizing *STAR WARS* toys in 1978, when he noticed that his loose-limbed C-3PO figure needed to be replaced. He asked himself, "Wasn't there a silver one in the movie?" Thus a repainted C-3PO became his first custom job, and he still owns it. In the years that followed, Newborn would make a custom figure whenever his creative juices were flowing, but his work really took off while he attended college in the early 1990s.

"I graduated with a degree in theater, so, of course, for the last five years I've been a waiter," jokes Newborn, who was once pictured in *STAR WARS GALAXY MAGAZINE* wearing his "Darth Waiter" Halloween costume. "I still dabble in community theater, purely for fun, and last year I started doing local television commercials. I got paid for them, so now I'm technically a professional actor."

At first, Newborn customized his Kenner figures with oil paints, then gradually improved his techniques, progressing to acrylics, sanding figures to "resculpt" limbs and joints, and swapping parts. Besides characters from *STAR WARS* books and movies, Newborn created dioramas, such as George Lucas at the Lucasfilm Archives (à la the classic image of Lucas surrounded by special effects models) and Donny and Marie as Luke and Leia from the "memorable" *STAR WARS* song-and-dance routine on the Osmonds' weekly TV show in 1977.

Along with action figures, Newborn enjoys painting the characters from West End Games' miniature line. "I really like the sculpting," he says. "West End made lots of obscure characters during a dry period for action figures." Over the years he has made more than 100 different custom *STAR WARS* action figures, and every one remains in his collection. People always ask to buy his creations, and Newborn always politely refuses.

And what a collection. "The last time I moved, only three of 98 boxes were marked 'Clothes,'" Newborn notes. "Most of the vintage stuff is in the attic, and recent offerings fill one closet of my bedroom, plus a large shelf unit along one wall. If it were all spread out for display, it would easily fill two whole rooms."

STAR WARS SUPER FAN AND RENAISSANCE MAN ALEX NEWBORN HAS A FLAIR FOR THE COMEDIC, THE DRAMATIC AND THE PARODIC. ALONG WITH PAIRING HIS STORMTROOPER SELF ALONGSIDE HAN SOLO, HE DOES SIMILAR CUSTOMIZING WITH STAR WARS ACTION FIGURES AND CARTOONS.



Although Newborn has a keen eye for even the most minute details from the films, matching colors and accessories can be quite a challenge, as he is almost completely colorblind, though that has led to some interesting situations. Consider the time his friends broke the news that the Anakin Skywalker of his unmasked Darth Vader had blue skin.

It's worth noting that Newborn's customizing techniques were fine-tuned in a sort of vacuum. *STAR WARS* collecting wasn't mainstream in the early '90s, making it difficult for fellow customizers to network. As his methods improved, Newborn wrote perhaps the first-ever article on the subject, in *Action Figure News* and *Toy Review* #13. That led to a handful of contacts with some fellow pioneers of *STAR WARS* customizing, and when Newborn later discovered the Internet and e-mail, his ability to share experiences and knowledge with others expanded dramatically. He equates the situation to one faced by Luke Skywalker: "Luke thought he was the only Jedi, and others thought the same thing."

Newborn's masterpiece, and driving force behind his customization work, is a home video entitled "Whoever Dies with the Most Toys Wins" (WDWTMTW), a *New Hope* parody exclusively starring vintage *STAR WARS* toys. It started out as "an insurance video with style" while he was "just playing with the camera," Newborn explains. The plans grew, and "before I knew it, I had 20 minutes of stuff. I'm doing the whole movie!"

New CO

Alex Newborn—*STAR WARS* cartoonist—has taken fa



born NCEPTS

toy customizer, filmmaker and
ndom to incredible lengths **BY GUS LOPEZ**

It became an underground sensation in the *STAR WARS* collecting community after he gave copies to a few friends as gifts. The video includes all the major scenes from *A New Hope* sprinkled with humor, additional "behind the camera" scenes (such as Chewie finding the homing beacon inside the *Millennium Falcon*) and even a cameo by a *Battlestar Galactica* Cylon Raider in the battle over the Death Star. The film uses the *STAR WARS* soundtrack and has no dialogue. However, the 3 3/4" figures tell the story better than many actors in other fan-made films. Newborn uses dozens of obscure characters from his custom work, and goes out of his way to construct elaborate sets out of Kenner playsets and homemade items.

Newborn swears that he didn't storyboard the video, but the clever camera angles and close-ups flow seamlessly, as if there were a greater plan. Many *STAR WARS* movie camera angles are recreated with images of Don

Post helmets, a Han Solo blaster, a Palitoy Death Star, dozens of ships and many action figures that were found appropriate for various shots. Sets were made of Styrofoam when there was no production toy available to capture a setting, and a hamster ball was used for the exterior Death Star shots.

Newborn began filming WDWMTW in 1992, and completed the project in 1996. He even made a six-hour documentary describing all his shots and customizing tricks. In all, the video required more than 1,000 hours of work—clearly a labor of love.

So now the obvious question is, will there be a WDWMTW for *The Empire Strikes Back*? In fact, Newborn is already well into his "sequel." He filmed a great deal of it when a freak snowstorm hit Alabama in February 1996, running in and out of the house to warm up and to watch the actual video to gather ideas.

Newborn's creative juices, however, don't stop flowing with custom figures and amateur videos. For instance, as a cartoonist for *STAR WARS* fanzines, his humor centers around "cheesy puns" and well-known characteristics of the *STAR WARS* toys. Some of his more memorable lampoons include a "Hans and Franz Solo" panel poking fun at the buffed-up 1995 Kenner figures, "The Lone Ranger and Ronto" and a "Primateen Mist" ad parody in which Darth Vader finds a remedy for his heavy breathing.

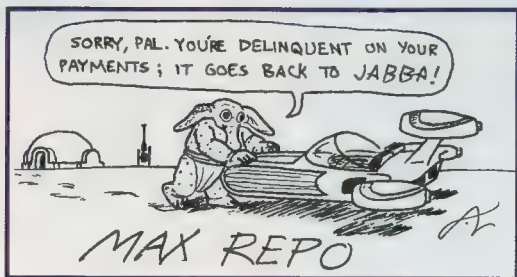
Among his other projects, Newborn filmed a parody of Weird Al Yankovic's "Yoda," itself a parody of the Kinks' "Lola." He's also produced a send-up entitled "All too Easy," in which Vader reenacts his commercial duel with the Energizer Bunny. In this version, though, the Dark Lord kicks the bunny into the carbonite pit. Vader turns to the camera and says, "All too easy."

On a more serious note, Newborn says that one of the most memorable things about his *STAR WARS* passion was his friendship and correspondence with the late Brian Daley, author of the Han Solo trilogy of books and the National Public Radio *STAR WARS* radio dramas. "It was a fluke," Newborn says of their meeting, which came after he wrote Daley a letter and then got an out-of-the-blue telephone call from the author on his birthday. They hit it off and ended up chatting for hours. Daley

never mentioned, though, that he was terminally ill with cancer. Newborn was devastated to hear the news of Daley's death, just as the *Return of the Jedi* radio drama finished its last recording session in early 1996.

Just as Brian Daley was a role model to Newborn, Newborn now attempts to inspire budding *STAR WARS* customizers. "Brian made dialogue with no pictures, and I make pictures without dialogue." ☺

STAR WARS aficionado Gus Lopez (www.toysrgus.com) is a writer and collector in Seattle.



FOR THE SECOND incredibly challenging installment of *STAR WARS GALAXY COLLECTOR's* Trivia Puzzle Series, we've decided to mix some things up, literally. Composited here is an amalgam *STAR WARS* character constructed from bits and pieces, odds and ends, ups and down of 12 different actual citizens of the galaxy. Talk about a personality disorder!

With intimate knowledge of all things hero, villain, alien and whatnot in the *STAR WARS* universe, your mission is to decode and decipher which dozen characters went into the creation of this motley melange. Just match the letters indicated on the character to the names below. (Hint: To make things interesting, we've given you way more names than you'll need.) Once you've figured everything out—or at least *think* you have—mail your answers to the magazine. We'll enter all correct entries into a random drawing to win some totally put-together *STAR WARS* prizes. May the Force be with you!

25

**STAR WARS
Prizes!**

USE THE FORCE

1 GRAND PRIZE Obi-Wan Kenobi porcelain cookie jar
(1 of 1,000), courtesy of Star Jars

2 FIRST PRIZES *STAR WARS* Intergalactic Battle Game,
courtesy of Parker Brothers

3 SECOND PRIZES C-3PO vinyl resin figures, courtesy
of Applause

19 THIRD PRIZES Collectible *STAR WARS* chase cards,
courtesy of Topps

Entries must be received by **September 30, 1998**. One entry per person. Answers will appear in Issue #4 of *SWGC*; winners will be notified by mail. Photocopies or handwritten copies of this contest are acceptable. Sorry, no e-mail entries.

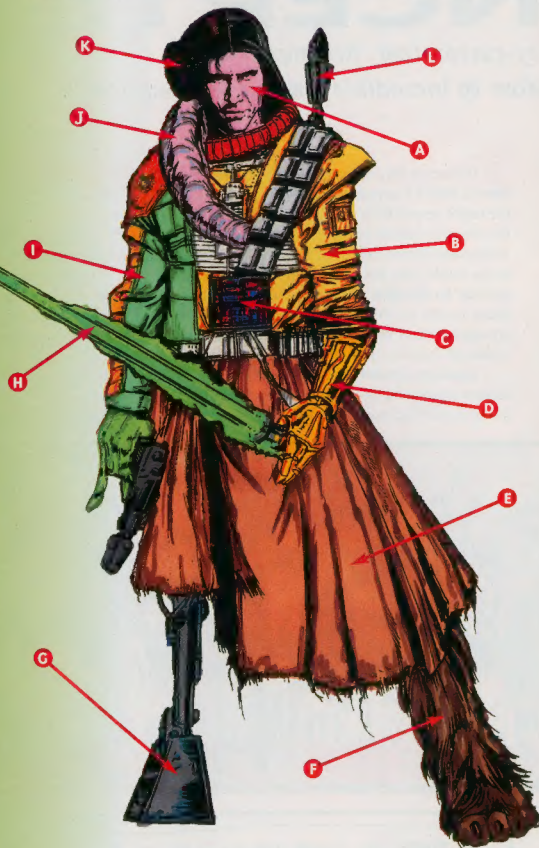
Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL YOUR ENTRY TO: Contest #2, *STAR WARS GALAXY COLLECTOR*,
One Whitehall St., New York, NY 10004

PUZZLING CHARACTER



Princess Leia
Dengar
Bib Fortuna
Weequay
Boba Fett
4-LOM
Luke Skywalker
Biggs Darklighter

Greedo
Figrin D'an
IG-88
R2-D2
Chewbacca
Dash Rendar
Tusken Raider
Jawa

C-3PO
Too Onebee
Bossk
Boushh
Han Solo
Xizor
Darth Vader
Emperor Palpatine

ANSWERS TO "Jedi Trivia Quiz" in *STAR WARS GALAXY MAGAZINE* #13: 1) Holocron; 2) Code; 3) Master; 4) Obi-Wan Kenobi; 5) Yoda; 6) Anakin Skywalker; 7) Yima-Da-Boda; 8) Nomi Sunrider; 9) Jorus C'baoth; 10) Palpatine. BONUS ANSWER: Old Republic

BIGGER THAN BROADWAY!

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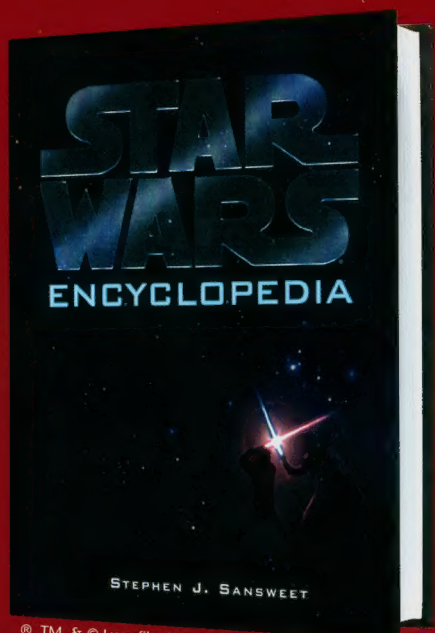
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